

ATP #2049

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 southeast, it's Professor Beth Oljar!

Beth: Hi, good to be here!

Matt: Thanks for being here and thanks to God, that you are not in the southeast of the United States right now which is a hotspot for the Corona virus!

Beth: Well right, yeah! Welcome to scientific objective fact checking the hard way!

Matt: It's really interesting to read the news every day and not really see anything necessarily new, but the numbers are not playing very well. Even in our state where we've got things clamped down fairly well considering the rest of the country.

Beth: I think we're doing a lot better than a lot of other states, because we have a governor who's, you know, paying attention to science and the facts, but you know I guess we should be glad the President hasn't sent his stormtroopers into Detroit yet, as he has in my hometown!

Matt: That's right! Unbelievable. Well I appreciate the text that you're sending about the wall of moms and the wall of dads. The

wall of dads had their leaf blowers to blow the poison gas away from the protesters and I think that that's awesome.

Mara: That's my favorite thing

Beth: They had cameras to catch what was happening too.

Matt: Absolutely.

Beth: So they couldn't cover up. They had signs that said 'Fathers Against Fascism,' I love it. That's awesome.

Matt: Anytime a group of people show up, and they've got a coordinated T-shirts, I'm tuning in, that's all I got to say. Professor Stephen Manning is here from political science

Stephen: Good afternoon.

Matt: Good afternoon. Are you more comfortable now Stephen?

Stephen: I'm trying to, you know.

Matt: Right before we got on Stephen, we were conjecturing about the possibility of us all downloading the app to our phones, and then just all being in separate cars for the dream cruise and just trying to do an entire episode!

Stephen: Yeah.

Dan: But there's no dream cruise. Oh, you mean our own dream cruise?

Matt: Professor Maggio. Do you think there's going to be a dream cruise? Of course there is!

Dan: Well, they cancelled any official, I think, sponsorship activity. But you can't prevent everybody from driving up and down the Woodward. If it gets too out of control, maybe they'll just close Woodward down like they usually do.

Matt: I am going to assume that's going to happen sometime relatively soon.

Dan: So, even if they tried to do that, that would be as exciting as the dream cruise itself. So I'll still take my chair over to Woodward and watch the festivities,

Stephen: A lot of it always took place kind of unofficially anyway, right?

Matt: Right.

Dan: I mean in the early days, yes.

Matt: My kids equate that part of the cruise, considering literally the moment it starts to warm up we start seeing people with their lawn chairs on Woodward. They equated, when they shut Woodward down, as a firework show because they get to see the police rip off those flares, you know? Kind of cool. Professor Heather Hill is here with us today. How's it going, Heather?

Heather: How are you, Matt? Everyone?

Matt: Just living the life, what can I say?

Heather: I have a couple of monarch butterflies.

Matt: Does that mean that you have some milkweed in your gardens? Excellent. Most excellent. We actually saw one in our backyard a couple weeks ago we definitely don't have any of that and I was like, well, they're already up and moving. What can I

say? Pretty interesting. Now, Professor Mara Livsey was actually out doing yard work you said before you came on to the show?

Mara: Well that's right. We were finishing up painting the back deck and cleaning out the garage, organizing, spraying it down.

Matt: That's kind of a big deal. You've brought that house from purchase to livability in a very short period of time.

Mara: Oh you know that's right. I mean I'm not just gonna be sitting here doing nothing. Also I need a break from like, you know, making course content.

Matt: Yeah. Very good point. Professor Dave Chow is here with us today as well.

Dave: Pleasure to be here as always.

Matt: Excellent, thanks for coming, Dave. All right, show us what you sketched during our first recording session.

Dave: Nothin! I'm just taking notes, just, just this that's all.

Matt Okay.

Dave: Nothing scandalous yet.

Matt: No hedghogs or anything?

Dave: No, Heather's birthday doesn't come up for another year so I'm good.

Matt: Right. That's right.

Dave: We'll have to hold tight. So, I'm just jealous that she's got monarchs, that's all.

Matt: Oh yeah.

Dave: We actually, what was it...three weeks ago, we had 18 little caterpillars on our milkweed. The milkweed was getting decimated, now we're down to 0.

Matt: Aww, that's too bad.

Heather: The birds may have gotten them.

Dave: Oh yeah. We are like the Robin and Cardinal buffet over here right about now. All you can eat.

Matt: We are very happy to say that our Academic Vice President and Provost Professor Pam Zarkowski is our guest panelist for today! Again we're glad to have you, Pam.

Pam: And I am most honored. This is an esteemed group and after our first recording, you know, your real estate has even gone higher.

Dave: We have real estate?!

Dan: Looks like you're at the lake house today?

Pam: Yep, that's the lake house. That's right.

Dan: Nice!

Pam: I'll just say Dave you talked about having Robin and Cardinal, but we like to entertain all the deer. We kind of have a buffet for them. They like to eat everything I plant, so tell them to come to the, you know, our buffet in the morning and just enjoy yourselves. They have cocktails on our deck. That's what I think they do yeah afterwards.

Matt: Well folks, depending on what your animals eat, 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 us the questions in a number of ways, you can email us at atp@udmercy.edu, reach us on the web at udmercy.edu/atp. Find us on our ever-growing Facebook group, another few people added over the last week, or listen to your favorite smart speaker by asking it to play Ask the Professor at University of Detroit Mercy.

Heather: Hey Matt, did you introduce everybody? Did I just zone out there for a minute?

Matt: Uhh, I thought I did! Did I miss someone?

Dan: Happy hour is gonna be late tonight.

Beth: Ok, I just wanna make sure everybody got their moment in the sun. I guess I zoomed out there on zoom for a few minutes.

Matt: That's all right.

Stephen: Did you miss Beth?

Matt: I thought that I did Beth first! She was in the southeast.

Stephen: Oh, that's right.

Matt: I have been on Zoom since 7:30am.

Heather: Whose fault is that?

Matt: So, let's try this on for size. "Dear professors, with the political scene as volatile as it may have ever been, I wanted to lighten things up by coming up with a list of presidential nicknames. I hope you can use the questions and they can bring

some cheer to your crew, as much as they give a few laughs during such uncertain times. Warmest wishes from Valencia California, our friend, Frank Burroughs!" Thanks for sending these in Frank.

Dan: So, can I ask Stephen a question? So that's an interesting introduction of that the times that we are in. But to put that in perspective, are we really in unusual times or has this been played out over and over again since the beginning of politics in this country? How is what we're experiencing now any different than how it has been? Is it really that different?

Mara: I would agree with you there, Dan. I think what's happening now isn't so different from what's happened before, but I think politics are more polarized.

Matt: What does the political scientist think?

Steven: Yeah, It's certainly more polarized. Well you know one big question is if Trump loses - they're already talking about - to what extent is this a kind of a permanent thing in our politics? Or to what extent will we, kind of like a rubber band, snap back to something that resembles normality where people, you know actually talk to each other in a relatively civil way? I'm assuming you know what happened on the floor of the house yesterday for an hour. That's certainly unprecedented. But it's an interesting question. We already are seeing Republicans, not in droves, but some Republicans, opportunists that they are, you know, leaving the president a little bit. Disagreeing with the President on some basic issues, including the next rescue package.

Dave: Yeah, the Lincoln Project been pretty amazing too have as far as I know.

Steven: Yep.

Matt: That's interesting.

Steven: Led by, among others, Kellyanne Conway's husband, who was one of the first and remains one of the leaders of that group.

Dan: Yeah that's fascinating to me that's, I guess been allowed, I don't want to say it that way, been allowed to go on? Makes you wonder what the real reality is when you see things like that that you think should not exist.

Steven: I'd like to be on the fly on the wall in the Conway's cocktail hour and dinner.

Dan: The cocktail hour, yes.

Heather: Yet another cocktail hour reference.

Dave: Well we could say pillow talk!

Matt: We're going to list some presidential nicknames and I'm going to be asking you for the President. "The human iceberg."

Heather: Coolidge.

Matt: I would have thought it was Coolidge, but it's not Coolidge

Dave: Taft

Heather: Wilson.

Stephen: It's not Hoover? Human iceberg...

Matt: I'm sorry Pam, what was that?

Pam: Lincoln?

Matt: No, no, although that kind of fits a little bit too. No, these initials are B H.

Dan: Benjamin Harris.

Matt: Benjamin Harrison. Yep. I don't exactly know how that applies because all I really have are the matches here but we have a political scientist so I'm expecting Stephen to know. How about this one Stephen? This one should get the train running again. How about, "the great engineer?"

Heather: Wilson?

Stephen: FDR

Matt: You just said his name Stephen.

Stephen: FDR?

Matt: No before, your previous response.

Stephen: Oh. Hoover!

Matt: Yeah that's Herbert Hoover.

Steven: Really? He engineered a lot of uh...bad stuff!

laughter

Pam: He built the dam, didn't he?

Dan: Yeah. That's pretty good.

Stephen: Jeez! I feel like I'm back in my freshman (NS)!

Dan: He probably said, "I don't give a damn!" Not BUILD a damn!

Stephen: Yeah, probably wouldn't miss it so much.

Matt: This next one I actually learned from Beth Oljar, because we were talking quite a bit, back in the, the Bush years, as in the W. Bush years. Do you remember which President, Beth, you had told me was nicknamed "your fraudulency?"

Dan: Nixon?

Matt: No. Somebody who won....

Beth: I told you that?!

Matt: Yeah, you were the one saying that this President had that nickname because things were so wonky in the electoral college. I just remember learning it from you.

Dave: Oh boy.

Matt: It says, he said it was Hayes. Rutherford B. Hayes, who was the president in between the Clevelands? Is that right? Or was that Harrison?

Pam: You're asking too many questions, Matt.

Dan: You know I learned one thing about this show. It would behoove me to memorize the presidents in order. That would get me through a lot of questions on this show. So maybe that's a weekend project.

Dave: Dan, when we get back to the studio we're putting up all the Presidents' pictures on the wall behind you. That map doesn't help!

Dan: Seriously! Do you know how often I'm like, "If I only knew the presidents in order!"

Mara: Dan when I was in middle school, I was given an extra credit assignment where I had to say all the presidents in order while holding a burning match.

Dan: Really? Was that a nun that did that to you?

Mara: No I went to public school!

Pam: Can you do it now?

Mara: No!

Pam: Was it one of those long matches?

Mara: It was a regular tiny match.

Pam: It wasn't a Bic?

Mara: And let me tell you, I got my extra credit. I did it!

Dave: Wow!

Announcer: You're listening to a special edition of Ask The professor, in which each of the eight 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: Okay, how about I throw you all a bone, and we'll get back on track. Okay? At the time, he was referred to as the first black president.

Dave and Pam: Bill Clinton.

Matt: Bill Clinton. Yeah, it was Bill Clinton. Seems kind of silly, looking back over that nickname. Oh my gosh. How about 'King mob?' Kinda scary.

Dan: Kennedy? No. Is that a reference to the mafia?

Matt: No, I don't know, actually.

Stephen: We've never had a rap star as president.

Matt: Not yet. Not yet.

Dave: Not a good one at least

Stephen: King mob....

Beth: That sounds like something radical Republicans would have called Lincoln but maybe I'm wrong.

Matt: I mean you're in the wheelhouse in terms of the right era Beth. How about I just say, the \$20 bill.

Stephen: Jackson.

Matt: That was Andrew Jackson. Yeah.

Dave: Okay.

Beth: He's quite possibly one of the worst...Well, no question, he's one of the worst presidents we've ever had!

Matt: There's a little bit of a clue in this one. How about '10 cent Jimmy'?

Stephen: Carter.

Dan: James Madison. Jimmy....Is it Jim? James?

Dave: Madison? Polk?

Pam: Come on Mara, you've got it!

Dave: Come on. That match is burning fast!

Mara: No I don't!

Matt: You literally named every James president except the correct answer. And most people know him as, well the first, only president that did not have a spouse during his term.

Dan: We just had this question by the way on another show.

Beth: Monroe?

Pam: Rutherford.

Dave: Dan's right um, who was it?

Beth: James Monroe?

Matt: Nope.

Dan: It's not Taft is it?

Dave: No.

Dan: What's his first name?

Mara: William.

Dan: William Taft, yeah. Sorry about that.

Beth: William Howard.

Matt: No, it was James Buchanan.

collective sighs

Matt: And I was this close to giving a Marvel Studios reference as in Bucky Barnes, okay? James Buchanan Barnes, Mara would have gotten that.

Mara: I would've gotten that!

Dave: Same here.

Matt: Who is 'old sink or swim?'

Dave: That sounds like Taft!

Dan: Yeah, I was gonna say Taft.

Heather: Tyler?

Matt: Nope, you're gonna have to go back quite a bit more.

Stephen: Is this a guy who couldn't swim?

Dave: Or that he displaced all the water in the tub!

Beth: Quincy Adams? John Quincy Adams?

Matt: You know I'm going partial credit Beth. It was the original, the OG, John Adams was "old sink or swim".

Heather: I was gonna say that, I really was!

Matt: The only other clue I have there is now that I've actually, because I could never afford to otherwise, you know seen Hamilton on Disney+? Phew, John Adams gets roasted quite a bit.

Mara: Oh yes he does.

Matt: Taken down!

Stephen: Neither of the other Adams were reelected either.

Matt: That's right. That's right.

Dave: I still prefer Gomez.

Beth: That was a great miniseries with Paul Giamatti and Marlene Megan on John Adams is amazing.

Matt: How about 'the dude president'? Dude.

Dan: Lebowski?

Mara: Yeah, right. Dude!

Dan: What other answer is there for that question? The Dude.

Matt: I know so little about this president. The only other thing I know about him besides his name is that I think in his official portrait, he's got giganto muttonchops.

Dave: Van Buren? No..

Heather: Has he been named yet on the show so far?

Matt: I actually don't think so.

Heather: Okay.

Dan: Tyler? Uh.... who havent' we mentioned...

Dave: Oh, I can see him right about now, but I...

Heather: Grant? No you said somebody that you don't really know much about.

Matt: If he were around and we used like semi standardized Western nicknames we would probably call him Chet.

Dave: Chester A. Arthur!

Matt: Arthur, Yes, Arthur.

Dave: Was gonna say, he plays centerfield for the Tigers?!

Matt: He was the Dude! Not Chet Lemon!

Dave: Oh.

Matt: Oh, I'm sorry I can't help but say this, you do the research to figure out the rest, but the people that I ran with when I was younger, my buddy used to do some prank calling. His go-to prank call was pretending like he was Chet Lemon and calling people. "Tiger centerfielder Chet Lemon from the 80s!" I just, where's that coming from, you know?

Heather: Yeah, and you said it was a friend of yours! UH HUH!!!

Matt: Friend! Chet Lemon. How about the 'Napoleon of protection'?

Heather: So this was a short president?

Matt: It has to be, doesn't it? Although I don't remember hearing that this person was rather short

Pam: Roosevelt, Theodore? No?

Dave: Monroe.

Beth: Madison was short.

Matt: Madison was sure yeah. Not like Hamilton.

Beth: Monroe was a protector I suppose.

Matt: Initials here are W, M.

Steven: McKinley.

Matt: Was McKinley, yeah. William McKinley.

Mara: Look what happened to him.

Matt: No comment. All I could think about, as usual, is something from the Simpsons where the joke is that Mr. Burns, you know the miser, is so old that he already lived through McKinley-nomics, and, you know, whatever that even, you know means. There's one more of these questions being asked, and I think it's a pretty softball for people of our generation. Whose nickname was 'Poppy'?

Heather: David Ortiz.

laughter

Beth: George H.W. Bush was Poppy.

Matt: Yep, you got it!

Beth: Actually, one of his nicknames was rubbers, because he was a huge, huge supporter of Planned Parenthood!

Dave: Wow.

Mara: Nice!

Matt: So here are the bonus questions that came with the set we have just enough time to do them and it's actually kind of fun. These are the names assigned by the Secret Service to members

of the presidential family, and they're relatively well known ones.
Whose Secret Service nickname was 'Coppertone'?

Beth: Trump?

Dan: Yeah.

Pam: That's what I would've guessed.

Matt: Presidential family members, their nicknames.

Dave: Like, Bobby Kennedy?

Dave: Was she tan or somebody that's dark?

Pam: Betty Ford?

Matt: You know I heard Kennedy, it was Rose Kennedy. But I believe for the same reason. You may have heard this one before to, who was 'starlight'?

Dan: Was that Michelle Obama?

Dave: One of their kids?

Matt: No, this actually was a First Lady.

Beth: Michelle Obama?

Dan: Jackie Onassis?

Dave: Caroline Kennedy?

Matt: Nope.

Steven: Laura Bush.

Dan: We can go down the list.

Matt: It was actually Pat Nixon for whatever reason.

Heather: Who was it?

Matt: Pat Nixon. Here's a very very recent one. This would be a presidential daughter. Who was 'twinkle'?

Beth: One of the Bush daughters. Barbara?

Matt: That's a 98% there but it's Jenna, Jenna Bush was Twinkle.

Dan: Were you allowed to pick your own names?

Matt: Pretty interesting stuff.

Dave: Wow.

Matt: I successfully skipped over what this person is predicting Donald Trump's long term nickname is going to be and we'll come back to that in 20 years and see how history, you know, treats our current president here. So, the time has come at the end of our show to go back to the list of ATP favorites. We've done our magazines. Uh, here's a good one. We've never done this one before. What's your favorite place to go to that's a museum? I will, I'll start us off by saying that after 15 years of my wife working at The Henry Ford, it's hard to go to any other museum, even awesome ones like Smithsonian whatever and not think about how unique The Henry Ford is and the fact that it's close to where we live, it's pretty interesting stuff. People just don't collect full size locomotives like they do.

Dave: I beg your pardon, I'm saving up! I've got the yard for it.

Mara: Yeah, my answer would also be nostalgic. So, growing up as a kid, we always went to the Detroit Institute of Arts, and I just remember the sets of armor, just like as a kid, always loving just going there and looking at those sets of armor.

Dan: You know if you try to put one on, they get really mad.

Stephen: Mine might be...Pam you would know this too, in Istanbul. The Sophia Hagia, They have now turned into a...It's both a museum and a mosque, but it's on the world heritage. What's that called... the World Heritage List?

Dave: Yep.

Stephen: It's great. Yeah, the Sophia Hagia is now turned into a, turned back into a mosque. People could still go in there but it's a very very politicized decision for him to make. That was beautiful that's been in the news a lot lately. I've seen pictures of it that brought back our visit to that.

Pam: I'll add, I like the Motown Museum and I can't wait to see it when it's redone. That was, I like all the museums you've mentioned but I'll throw that one in, in Detroit.

Matt: That's a great one. At Woodward in the Boulevard.

Dan: Hmm, I would say, besides the other Detroit museums, the British Museum of Natural History is very good in London. So I just remember that was a good experience.

Heather: Something that pops into my head and I haven't been there in a long time is the National Gallery of Art in Washington. And it's a great beautiful building. And on either side of it they always have beautiful flowers.

Matt: Heather, you make me think of every time I have to go to what the we in chemistry call 'the mothership,' which is the American Chemical Society World Headquarters, which by the way is across the street from Jesuit of the Americas, in Washington. My wife always asked to tag along. Totally abandoning me for the entire trip and just going museum to museum on her own, since of course that's her line of work and the National Gallery is definitely very high on her list.

Steven: You're not using 11 six funds for that are you?

Matt: Well not during the pandemic. Come on.

Dave Yeah we can't leave!

Matt: I don't think we've heard from Beth or Dave quite yet!

Beth: Um, well, I'm with Pam I really love the Motown Museum and seeing the part of the floor that's worn away from when the engineers were keeping the beat in the DIA. But there's a museum in Oregon called 'OMSI' which is the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, and that was a big hit when I was growing up.

Matt: Very cool.

Beth: Was really cool.

Dave: Okay. I'm down to three. MoMA in New York,

Matt: Of course.

Dave: The Royal Tyrrell in Drumheller Alberta, which is a great Dinosaur Museum, it's actually a working lab. And Matt you might agree with me on this one, Marvin's Mechanical, you know, out on Orchard Lake.

Matt: Marvin's Marvelous Mechanical Museum!

Dave: Yes.

Matt: Absolutely.

Dave: So, all the pinball games... I can't wait till they open.

Matt: Yes. Someday. I'm afraid we've used up all the time we have for today so the time has come to say goodbye. Beth!

Beth: Bye!

Matt: Stephen!

Stephen: Goodbye. Everyone stay safe.

Matt: Dan!

Dan: Goodbye.

Matt: Heather!

Heather: Bye!

Matt: Mara!

Mara: Bye!

Matt: Dave!

Dave: See ya!

Matt: And Pam!

Pam: Goodbye! Wear a mask!

Matt: 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 in all of our lakes and libraries and basements and we're not in the Briggs building I can tell you that. We are out of the College of Liberal Arts and Education at University of Detroit Mercy McNichols campus. We're produced and directed by Michael Jayson and Brian Maisonville, and our executive producer is Professor Jason Roche. Til' next time, I'm your host, Matt Mio.