

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 times ring in another session of Ask The professor the show on which you match wits with the 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. Looking like she's ready to sell you the next volume of Encyclopedia Britannica it's Professor Beth Oljar. Some of us still remember actually using those in school, the actual books before there was Wikipedia, because I'm old as dirt so I remember that.

It's Good dirt

I'm old as rocks

Well yeah, rocks need to be ground up to make dirt, I think that's right. That's why Jim and I are such good friends. Well I remarked to Beth when we joined the call here a little early, but I just can't get the image of when people are wearing headsets, because I see it all the time now. You know "Call now and if you order now you get a bonus" like I lived through the 80s it was like that every day, every single day.

But wait, there's more.

That's in my syllabus for intro I have the whole thing like basically a ShamWow commercial. I'm not kidding you,

I must have been particularly punchy one day and that was just what came out.

Didn't he get arrested for something.

Yes, assault.

assault with a shamwow. Okay,

next to introduce Professor Dan Maggio because he's the only other person I can see wearing a headset. Thanks, Matt.

How's it going, Dan.

Good, it's another week in the record books.

That is definitely true. In the immortal words of my colleague Mary Lou Caspers, "The only thing I know about every semester is that it comes to an end." And that pretty much covers all the bases. Thank God.

Yes.

With as much certainty as we have these days right?

you know we have math.

Yeah, yes. Mr math is just he's back, right, we'll get to him in just a moment. Professor Stephen Manning is here and boy of boy every week he looks even more like he is from the Department of retired.

Its true. official as of Saturday night at midnight. actually my neighbor across the street saw me the other day and I had just come in from a run admittedly and he referred to me as a mountain man.

Yeah, you have this whole Jim Bridger hair thing going on.

I just wanna know, are you gonna be Dan Haggerty or Denver Pyle.

You guys probably saw a picture of of Bannon in the news. In the last day since. If I continue this and if I look too much like Bannon I'm gonna do something.

Well I think he's let himself go a little bit.

Let himself go to what?

You're inferring I haven't Jim, thank you.

The best part about this whole exchange is that you know the exact minute that you become retired, and it is very close. It is very close. I think we've already heard the tones of Professor Dave Chow.

Pleasure to be here. As always,

Excellent. How's it going, Dave.

So far so good, running around like crazy today, got the big honey do list so oh you're sure I'm doing good.

Don't reveal this in too much of a creepy way but my wife and I have been getting up earlier and earlier for our morning walk and we actually catch Marcy on our way out of the house.

Oh, the six o'clock shift because the 530 shift,

whatever it is, it's early and there is no sun.

.

Yeah, that's nauseating.

Now, Matt. What's worse is when she goes to work when I go to bed.

So this last week I've been going to bed about 435 o'clock on a regular basis.

and you're not psychotic yet. I would be

any lesser or anymore, You mean,

I guess anymore.

I've been a little nutty already so, huh.

Professor Mara Livezey from Chemistry and Biochemistry is here today.

Great to be here.

Great presentation this morning at the E & S convocation.

Oh, thank you very much. You know I tried to keep my nerves down to a minimum talking in front of all you very important people.

Oh, please. What people are you talking about.

We're waiting to find out.

Mara gave a really good talk with Rochelle Balanger and Marwa Latif, also from our department on student engagement, and pretty much hit all the right notes, let's just put it that way. I felt engaged. That's great. Yeah, we really want to focus on keeping our students engaged and building as much activity into our online courses as we can. Absolutely. Professor Heather Hill is here with us today. Hello Heather.

How are you.

Pretty good. I'm seeing an array of colors from my dimension next to your head on the bookshelf I see yellow, red and blue, there should I ask you what courses are you about to start teaching.

She's on leave this term.

Oh for Pete's sake.

Yep, I'm on leave.

All right, I'm gonna mute you, let's see. No I'm just kidding. Wow, you are very lucky. You're very lucky.

Yeah, it's a good time to do this. Yep.

So how are you gonna spend the first week that we're all scrambling to get ready for the first week of classes.

I actually have a deadline coming up from my press. So, I'll be furiously working on the first chunk that they really want from me.

Okay. That's what sabbatical is all about, right.

Yep, A little gardening, a little running. I'm a little grumpy today because I've been working on my annual report, I know it's due tomorrow.

That'll do it.

Yeah, that will up the grump factor for sure.

I am not in any position to complain about anything because I do not have to do all the rest of you guys are doing.

Well, Some of you. Not Stephen and not Jim, you know who I'm talking about,

Can I interject real quick? So, it reminds me of a funny story but I don't remember what Edwin used to put in his annual report, but he used to submit an annual report every year but he used to write something really obviously sarcastic and funny, but who can remember what?

Oh, he used to say things like, you know how, what activities do you plan for next year to improve and he'd say things like, I plan to read books. Okay, I think I thought there was something even more specific but but yes that that's sure there was stuff you've been snarky er than that

You mean like a checklist of the seven deadly sins or something like that.

No, under, under service he would list, I plan to renew my library card next year.

That sounds right.

I took it as a personal challenge to see how few words I could put in that annual report this year.

How many?

uh you know i don't think i ended up doing a word count because I it was, it would have been hard to count actually my words as opposed to the 8 billion that are in the report itself. Right. I didn't have a lot to say. We'll just leave it at that.

I got a challenge for you How about the next one no punctuation, just one long run on sentence.

That'll work. You want to turn it into a Joyce novel is what you're saying.

Oh, the Provost, Provost Pam in her email said "please don't spend an inordinate amount of time on this", which I actually really appreciate it I thought that was like that, but somehow I still seem to be spending too much time.

Yeah, it happens, it happens. Professor Jim Tubbs is here with us today, always looks very stately. It's the chair. Despite the fact that I am retired, I am teaching two courses this term.

Of course, you are.

how I ever got roped into this, I do not know, but of course we're now being pushed to record lectures and do it with PowerPoint, and I don't like doing this in the first place but I've recorded the first two weeks of lectures. 15 hours. .I mean, between all of between all the time for upload and captioning and wow you're putting a lot more into this than I plan to.

Costume changes?

Yes. Yeah.

With dance numbers.

you put an intermission symbol, and they have a countdown

I haven't changed the font on the PowerPoint slides yet.nn I need to think about that.

I'm thinking Gothic might be good.

Did you curate your space?

No, it's uncurated.

There are all these articles in the Chronicle of Higher Education about how you should curate your space,

waiting for our I'm waiting for articles for female faculty on makeup.

I think I'll curate my space when Hell Freezes Over.

Yeah, welcome to the Mio family basement where the printers' on top of the long range freezer. Let's continuing around the horn here, Professor Jeffe Boats is here with us, back with us after a little bit of a hiatus. How's it going, Jeffe?

I've been pretty busy, but it's nice to be back again. Yeah, busy, busy. You got a lot of classes coming up next week.

Oh, tons I got six online algebra sections, three quote unquote live Algebra sections. Elementary functions, Calculus 1 at night, and three recitations. I mean other than spending time with my kids, what else you got to do lately, you know,

that much is true,

Do you watch TV shows?

I don't have cable or anything. I own a TV but you know I just like stream Hulu once in a while or stream internet on it.

Ah, I see.

I don't watch shows.

Yeah, you're gonna be a busy guy but you said it man. When you see the green you gotta, you gotta go get it.

I'll leave the pop culture questions to you guys because I wouldn't have a clue about anything after 1990 something.

Well maybe the category will be in the 80s. That's right.

Or James Bond movies because you know all about those.

That's right, that's right. You know folks we're really excited to have had a long summer of guest panelists, being able to do something we usually aren't able to do unless we're on zoom, and we're going to continue this tradition into our next season. But we're very, very happy to have Sister Erin McDonald from University Ministry on with us today. Thanks for joining us, Erin. I'm glad to be here. It will be fun. And so, um, I will share, since someone referenced the seven deadly sins earlier, it made me think that I realized that I could self disclosure, I could say that I've recently been struggling with envy, since one of my housemates, the sisters in my community, one of her family members made a mask for her with fabric that has little nuns on it.

That is so cool.

Yes, and I am coveting it. So, I am struggling with the impulse to steal it. I don't even care if it's sanitized, and to just start wearing it, because I think it's adorable. And I want one.

And so, how many sins have you committed just off of that mask.

Well, a clearly a lot. Yeah,

I think you ought to make one with little nuns on a bus on it.

I mean that would be even better. Then I could feel like I one-upped to her mask. So maybe that's when I should start searching on Etsy, for fabric. Not that I know how to sew it, but fabric that has nuns and buses on it.

There you go.

That would be so cool.

just in case nobody told you, I can also illustrate whatever you need on a, on a mask.

Well. Why didn't anyone tell me this. Oh my goodness.

I'm sorry I'm sorry I'm art guy in this bunch.

He's the Magic Man of illustration.

So, yeah, how do I put in an order for a nun mask?

You can talk to my operator Dan Maggio over here. He's online 24 seven. Visa and MasterCard accepted.

I should warn you, I hear nun masks are habit forming.

Ah,

brutal absolutely brutal.

That was really good.

Yeah, good well played well played.

We're very glad to have you here and it'll become obvious if it is hasn't already what we actually do during this half hour. Yeah.

Crack each other up, that's pretty much it.

Pretty much. Speaking of our program. This is a program where you can send us questions regarding anything if you stumped the panel you win a prize. You can send the questions to us in a number of ways you can email us at ATP at UD mercy.edu. You can reach us on the web at udmercy.edu/atp, find us on Facebook, or if you dare - listen on your favorite smart speaker by saying play ask the professor from University of Detroit mercy. We have a set of questions, sent in by longtime questions sender, Amber Hubley, and she sent us these questions, back at the end of July, and it's been a while since she sent us some stuff so we have a little message from her, "Dear panelists: There was a time when it felt like I was researching, writing questions to submit to your show regularly as of late. I just couldn't

muster the time to do things, even though I still listen regularly. No more guilt, shame on me. I made it a point last weekend to come up with 20 questions all across the board to contribute to your fine show. I hope they'll come in handy for a future episode, and here we are, your loyal fan, Amber Hubley" Thank you for sending us these questions Amber. Let's get right down to business.

Ready to rumble.

What actor was born with the name William West Anderson. Very very famous actor, mostly due for due to the cadence of his speech.

Adam West.

It's Adam West. well done.

In your wheelhouse.

What you couldn't see was that I was doing the Batucy in celebration.

Oh my, we usually keep the dancing to a minimum on the show. What's the more common name of the aircraft coated HK4 Hercules?

is that the Guppy?

Hilo, no Halo.

Is this the one that could go straight up in the air, without -

the Harrier, I

It's not the Harrier

The Huey

um, what if I said to you to think about it being made out of wood.

Oh the the Spruce Goose. Yeah.

I was about to say that.

I think it got 50 feet off the water for about five seconds.

Right. That was a that was a big, big deal.

I realized I should have prayed a lot harder before I came on here. You didn't warn me Matt, you didn't warn me.

This is not about knowing things it's about finding ways to make fun of them quickly.

Yeah, wait til hears the voice of God chime in.

I don't know which question that'll be, but it'll be a trip.

It'll happen. What did it, automotive pioneer Claude Foster invent.

It's a part of the car we don't use very often, but when we use it, it's very important.

The wipers.

It's not the wipers.

Turn signals.

It's not the signals.

the emergency brake or the cruise control, that's a very important.

What else is Super? The lighter.

The chimsel. Did somebody say turn signal? No, we use that often.

Rosary beads hanging from the rearview mirror.

Now you're catching on.

Fuzzy dice.

The plastic Jesus on the dash.

The rear defogger.

No,

Parking brake?

no,

Pope Francis bobble head in the back window.

It's the dead body in the trunk.

you're circling like sharks but the person standing right in the middle and just totally protected here. So
.Claude Foster invented the horn, for cars.

Oh,

You said it was used rarely.

I know, we're in Detroit.

For New Yorkers, it's used more than the accelerator or the brake

Did he live in rural Idaho or something?

I'm looking at Heather's face, and her face says like I just start honking in the garage.

Get out of my way!

Don't you? I mean doesn't everybody?

That's how I start my car in the morning.

Oh my gosh. It's so funny. So, this very famous Michigan company was founded by Lewis and Emery Upton on the west side of the state.

Whirlpool?

It's Whirlpool, yeah you pulled that right out of your ear there.mm Whirlpool. Absolutely. I'm remembering 80s commercials in my head right now.

I'm never gonna try out for Jeopardy.

Right. Now seriously Erin, on this one you got a shot at because we can solve this problem, at least to some level mathematically. How many Grammys has Weird Al Yankovic won?

Oh man, I used to like listening to him when I was growing up in the 80s.

13.

It is not 13, it's lower.

Then, it's zero.

One.

I'm gonna guess half of his albums won Emmy's, so what's that about five out of 10.

So Jeffe centered on five, the correct response is four. You all kind of bounced around a little bit, but the answer is four. he's won four Grammys but still going strong, I just like to point out. still going. Strong.

I mean what category are they in does it say no it doesn't actually but there is a good spin off question here that I know you're going to enjoy.

Spoken record or spoken something maybe

Like comedy albums. Right?

Why wouldn't Paul McCartney let Weird Al Yankovic do a parody of Wings' "Live and Let Die"? This is great.

Oh, He and Linda are devout vegetarians and Weird Al's like into meat or something like that I can't remember.

Didn't he want to do "live and let fry" or something?

No, he wanted to do "chicken pot pie" is what he wanted to do! I would give you like you know five out of six on that, on an exam. Yeah, because I vaguely remember that. I think one of the last times they played here in Detroit, he was at, I think he was at The Palace or something like that, and they were staying at a posh hotel in Birmingham, the Townshend Inn, and I guess his daughter was throwing snowballs at the farrier across the street, beaming people walking in with their nice fancy fur coats, and their daughter's just like pelting people left and right.

He's a really good designer, yeah.

Stella. Is it Stella McCartney.

So how about this one? This one is something I've always wondered about, and I think that most of us have a fighting chance of at least putting a guess out there. By far, by far, (courtesy of data from 2019), one item on the Taco Bell menu outsells all the rest combined.

Chalupas.

nachos bell grande.

cheesy gordita crunch.

What was that Erin?

Quesa dilla?

nope, nope, nope,

Their burrito.

No, not the burrito. Is it just a regular old taco.

I mean I'd have to give you partial credit Dan. The regular soft taco outsells everything else on the menu combined. The regular soft taco.

We need Kendra here, she's our taco bell ringer, isn't she.

What, uh -

Now I'm even hungrier.

I know this isn't gonna help.

I've literally never eaten a taco bell.

Erin, I'd like to recommend the soft taco.

What I'm hearing you say is, that's what I should order.

You should get the nachos too, there very good.

And Nachos Bell grande is good too.

Okay, when Disneyland's Tomorrowland made its debut in 1955. What year, in the future, were they trying to simulate. This is hilarious.

Not the year 2020. Well, they picked that one.

And nobody showed up.

Any guesses?

1999.

Oh, it's not 2020?

1980?

I have to give it to Mara. It was 1986, specifically, 1986, like what was so special about that year?

Was it like a 50-year forward leap or 40 year?

It was something like that.

so 31.

I think I moved into my first apartment that year.

I moved here that year.

I wasn't born yet in that year.

I think that it's funny because I remember my Beastie Boys very very well. He always said "there is nothing that looks older than yesterday's view of tomorrow." In what country of the world is the oldest working library.

Italy.

It's not Italy.

Iran, Jordan, Syria, Mesopotamia.

Mesopotamia is excellent guess I'm giving partial credit. However, it's incorrect. I

Istanbul?.

It's not Istanbul.

Iran.

Iraq,

Egypt, Syria,

Let's keep saying all the same countries, over and over again and see who wins.

Sooner or later, we'll just keep on driving Matt into insanity and he'll agree, that's all.

Sadly, if you did this alphabetically you were only going to get about, you'd have to go halfway through. It's in Morocco. it's in Morocco. Hmm.

Wow.

We were in the right region, roughly.

So when did it open, roughly, it doesn't say it just says it's in a city called Fex, F-E-X Morocco,

This probably goes back to the Madrassas during the Dark Ages when a lot of the knowledge of the ancient world and the new knowledge of mathematics have been stored in the Middle East, because it was a center of knowledge. I would expect the mathematician To know such beautiful history, and if your books are late so help you as well and then the Moore's came into Europe and brought a lot of that

knowledge, back to that history course. Yeah. Excellent. As I always like to say on these calls, drop it in the chat. This is, this is pretty interesting. There's no citation here, and that probably means that there's some sense to it, that we may not be able to achieve outside of context but according to a recent poll of 11,000 Americans 2019. What percentage of those 11,000 Americans or vegans or vegetarians, that gave up and started eating meat again.

25%, it's higher,

it's higher than 7590.

I'm giving you a 92 it's it's 84%, a really 84% wherever vegans are wanting those people. You're a vegan,

I cannot. I blame myself.

Well, bacon is the pixie dust of the culinary world. I mean, you add it to anything, and my beloved Anthony Bourdain once said that vegans were the Hezbollah-like splinter faction of vegetarians.

I would expect them to eat lamb in Macedonia.

It's not I was expecting but well said.

I agreed with him.

I'm sorry. What uh - Let me see here, real quick because we only have time for about one or two more questions here we want to finish up Amber's set. What is the main difference between apple cider and apple juice.

Apple cider is fermented and apple juice is not.

I think there's something else they're looking for.

Oh, well Apple Cider's got pulp in it usually.

Or – like three dollars.

What would Ned Flanders say about this?

Ned Flanders would probably say, if it's clear and Yella, you got juice there fella. If it's dark and brown, you're in Cider Town.

That sounds nasty.

Oh my gosh.

I'm glad this is recorded. There's some nuggets of wisdom that I want to be able to go back and write down,

When people don't believe what you experienced today you can show 'em.

The Eighth deadly sin.

Ask the Professor, that's the eighth deadly sin.

All right, one more for the, for the ages and the records here. What famous invention did Gideon Sundback create? Gideon Sundback, I guarantee that this is on in all of our lives, usage at least once a day or once every two days.

I would guess deodorant,

A razor.

It is a part of clothing,

every day or every other day,

Underwear?

underwear Yeah.

Oh, a zipper?

It's a zipper Dan.

I said zipper first.

I'm sorry Heather. Zipper.

He couldn't hear you over all of us shouting underwear over and over.

That's the problem.

Oh my gosh,

you guys are en fuego today, but we definitely had a lot of fun. Unfortunately, the time has come for us to say goodbye, Beth -

Goodbye,

Dan -

Shall we sing it like Sound of Music? Goodbye,

Stephen -

Goodbye.

Edelweiss?

Dave. -

See ya.

Mara -

So long

Heather -

Al vedasane

Jim -

Adieu

Jeffe -

And Erin - Good night!

And now these words,

you can email ask the professor at atp@udmercy.edu or visit the Ask the professor Facebook page.

you know what folks, ask the professor is transcribed from wherever we are, some of us are on campus right now but most of us aren't, but usually we're in the Briggs Building, in the Department of Communication Studies in the College of Liberal Arts and Education at the University of Detroit Mercy's McNichols campus. We're produced and directed by Michael Jayson and Brian Maisonville, and our executive producer is Professor Jason Roche. So next time I'm your host Matt Mio.