

The University of Detroit Mercy presents another brand new episode of Ask The professor. Today's program was recorded using video conferencing technology.

The University tower times 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, all the way southeast on my screen is Professor Jeffe Boats.

Hey, how's it going. Southeast? I wish I was in Canada right now.

That's right. Of course, Detroit being one of the only places you have to travel south to get into Canada from one of the – Oh, Dave was actually showing us that he's our Canadian ringer right now

Even though it's not curling season, it's still a good place to be.

Now, Jeffe, I'm gonna guess that you weren't able to scratch that softball itch, that you must usually have at this time of year. Were you able to play this summer?

Oh yeah, actually. Well I'm scratching in two different ways. My usual baseball league. It was delayed for a long time for safety reasons and we're being very careful while we're playing some games. And then my youngest son is just old enough to make me a little league coach for the first time so I'm having a lot of fun with that.

Tons of fun.

And since that got delayed, that's going to go into the school year, it's got delayed so much. But I'm glad these kids are getting out and having a little fun before the inevitable lockdown. It's -- You know, is it coming next month, November, it's coming,

Are anybody's kids gonna be in school? Matt, are your kids going back to school. Yeah.

God have mercy on us all. Yes, absolutely. They are going back to school and frankly, the way they are talking about the grade school going at sounds a lot like a minimum security prison, sit at your desk for eight straight hours no recess, no lunch room, no special classes. Teacher will come in and out of the room. What does that sound like to you?

A gulag.

Anyway. Nice little mic drop there. That sounds like a transition if I ever heard one, at least following the way things are in my screen I've got Mr Dan Maggio next.

Hi Matt. Hi everybody

What's shakin?

Ah, not much. Just enjoying the end of the week. Looking forward to the weekend, sitting at home and doing nothing,

Actually, catching up on some some TV

watching the marvelous Mrs Maisel?

I started watching the marvelous Mrs Maisel and I love it, love the soundtrack. Love the apartment. I want the apartment. I don't care how I get it. But just I just love the whole period piece. Yep, and everything about it it's it's it's good. I love Suzy. I want her to be my sister and –

When are we gonna get some new episodes.

I don't know. I'm still in season one so I can go through season three. I just finished Cursed on Netflix, which was very good for anybody

The guy who plays the weeping monk in that show I totally have a crush on because he played Lorenzo Domenici in a series on the Medici that I just watched and he's so cute.

It's good enough that I'll watch it. Oh, I'm looking forward to the next uh --

I just finished watching the Medici, the whole, the whole run.

Wasn't hat a great show.

And then to see Dustin Hoffman playing the progenitor of them all was kind of crazy.

But it's the wives that are so cool in that show.

They are.

So that is a perfect segue to me introducing Professor Jim Tubbs.

Hello. Hello.

We always have very spirited conversations about what everybody is into in their streaming services. Thank you, COVID-19.

I never watched Netflix before COVID-19.

Well there you go, gotta watch something. Yep. works. So yeah, I was gonna ask him what you were into but I think you covered that are you a little bit of a renaissance guy there Jim in terms of what you like to consume.

I kind of enjoy it. I like the the Borgias series that was earlier,

with Jeremy Irons

yeah with Jeremy Irons, yeah, that was good and that kind of hooked me on it I guess.

Okay.

But it was the first two episodes that really hooked me on the Medici.

Mm hmm.

Now, someone I don't need to talk too much about liking medieval anything is Professor Heather Hill.

Oh, once I get further into this book project that I may be cursing home.

Can you remind us Heather the writing you're going to do. What is it about?

I'm working on uppity women.

Yes, so cool.

And their possible connections to contemporary uppity women.

Love it.

Like me

Loud talking, nasty women,

Nasty women, I knew you were gonna say it, if you didn't say it, I was gonna say it. It's been four years but I hope no more. You came to ask the professor recording Heather and you you, it was like less, I felt less than 24 hours after the debate, four years ago, and you had a nasty woman button on. I've never forgotten that. I thought that was awesome. Professor Mara Livezey is here with us today.

Hello.

Um, I don't see you eating any like freshly baked sweets, but I did see quite a large snifter of a beverage.

It looks like water. But is it?

Ah ha.

Professor Dave Chow is literally facepalming without using his hand.

Oh. Pleasure to be here, I think,

Oh Zima.

Those days, I mean you felt you felt like you were high society I swear and remember that's in the wake of Crystal Pepsi. Hey, let's make every beverage clear, can we make clear milk. Oh my gosh. Now, Professor Stephen Manning, you've heard a few generational analogies to beverages, how would you describe yours?

Oh, I remember something called – Oh, it was a pre mixed, not orange juice. It was more like Tang and was called, um –

Sunny Delight?

Was it Tango? I think it was called Tango or something.

Oh my Gosh

Tango is a soft drink originated in the UK, first launched by Corona in 1952.

Okay, that's Tango, Heather?

Yeah. But what's in it though.

It's a secret.

So, um –

That's the theme of questions, is all about obscure and disgusting mixed beverages.

Someone needs to send that in, frankly. I agree totally.

We're waiting for your contribution.

You have to be careful, Erin. When we dare the listeners they almost always come through and relatively quickly. Hey uh, Professor Beth Oljar, Did somebody just bite you?

Uh, my cat appears to be intent on clawing and and biting me, Yes.

Oh, that's too bad.

She's not at the moment currently ensconced in her little bed on my desk. So, yeah, I'm trying to stay away from Claws, but I know she does it with love. So,

That's right,

Okay you're gonna fall off the desk, if you keep doing that.

It's been a little while since my kids were under the table here and like biting and clawing at me but uh - human children, human children

Sounds like your cat should go to the minimum security prison with Matt's kids.

Yeah. Well, that's true.

Therapy animal.

Yeah.

Stay behind your Plexiglas divider and learn.

That's my retirement plan. I'm going to open an animal shelter with like puppies and kittens that people can use when they're having a bad day at work. Like, you can come rent them or something and have them in your workplace or, I don't know,

Yeah, like they rent plants,

Beth, The last year that I taught at CCS, they actually had a therapy sloth drop by.

Well, there you go,

That's my speed

A sloth?

A therapy sloth is like "Tell me how you feel."

Before we get any further down that almost literal rabbit hole, I want to be sure that we honor our guest panelists today, Sister Erin McDonald from University Ministry is also joining us.

Hello everyone.

Howdy.

It's Friday, which means nothing because I'm working tonight. I'm working three quarters of the day tomorrow, and all day Sunday, but I've got plenty of coffee and Jesus so I'll make it through.

Good. Absolutely.

Well the Sunday thing you presumably knew was part of the deal, right?

Yeah well you know nuns we have to work a lot on Sundays, but we've got a little extra work with our First Year retreat this Sunday. We have 21 freshmen joining us for a day full of, my favorite, icebreakers and -- prayer time reflection and fun.

That is awesome you

You get in there and break some ice.

Yeah, how many degrees do you need to have to be playing bedsheet volleyball?

Wow, okay well all I can think about when you said What day is it or is it Friday is that my mom has this tiny little movable letter sign that she puts in the window of her kitchen, and she's, pretty much the whole pandemic, been putting some sort of tiny, you know inspirational phrase.

There was a time during our lockdown where I was like I think I really need to put in like the kind of calendar they have like in a memory care unit where it's like "Today is Tuesday" with like a big smiley face and it's like "the date and the weather outside is --"

Yes,

or just remember to cross off the days on your wall calendar so you'll know which one is next.

Today- Here's what's happening. Yeah.

Unbelievable. 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 us questions in a number of ways you can email us directly at [atp@udmercy.edu](mailto:atp@udmercy.edu), reach us on the web at [udmercy.edu](http://udmercy.edu) slash ATP. Find us on Facebook, or ask your favorite smart speaker to play ask the professor at University of Detroit mercy. We have a new set of questions here, sent in by longtime question sender Kimberleigh Richards of Van Nuys, California. and we're always very thankful for her questions. So let's jump right in. What is a pole, POLE, a pole of inaccessibility?

What?

p o l e. What is a pole of inaccessibility?

Does this have something to do with latitude or longitude?

You know, it does Beth. It does.

Okay, I'm done now.

That refutes my guess.

That's my contribution

What was that Jeffe?

Oh, it reminded me of something to do with poles and complex analysis, but I guess I'm wrong. All right.

Maybe you're closer than you think. Any other guesses. Oh, it does have something to do with poles but not the north of the south pole of the earth.

Magnetic

Getting - getting warmer.

I mean, inaccessibility certainly has a lot of things associated with it, right. So polls of inaccessibility are mathematically calculated points in the middle of every continent. That makes it the furthest from a shoreline of an ocean. So technically speaking, this would be the hardest place to reach on that landmass. And apparently, um, the one in Asia is in all directions, 1644 miles from any kind of reasonable coastline. That is pretty inaccessible.

That's neat. I've never heard that term before but I used to do consulting work in Kansas every summer and there's a sushi place there, and I used to think "How fresh can this be?" I mean, it's at least a thousand miles -

Good question.

And it might even be closer to the Arctic Ocean than the other two

just hope it does not come in through the US mail.

Oh,

it'll -- you'll see it in January.

It better be smoked!

How about this one, a little more, geography, what's the largest island in the Mediterranean?

Crete?

Sicily?

It's Sicily, "it's about just short of 10,000 square miles," Kimberly says, "The island is made up of rocky terrain and even has Mount Etna, an active volcano, but still suffers from the characterization as being the piece of gum stuck to the top of the boot that is the country of --

No, No Tera Mina is a beautiful place.

It is gorgeous. Right, yeah. Gorgeous. And I think I've told the story before but I can't help myself. I never understood growing up, Italian, why Sicily really doesn't feel like it's a part of the country, even though it is you know politically speaking, but boy oh boy, my 92 year old grandmother made a new friend when this other person, joined up at her rest home. And when my grandmother, who is from Florence, found out this woman was from Sicily, they never spoke again, early nineties, that's all I can say.

Wow!

They hate each other's guts.

Maybe she thought -- Maybe she thought she was mafia.

It's possible it's possible right but holy smokes they were getting good and everything. I'm like hey where's your friend whatever? "oh we don't talk anymore" Like really come on.

People have some deep seeded hatred every now and then. Like I found out before my dad passed he hated the Japanese for the longest time because they invaded his village during World War Two.

well that's not entirely

That's not unrealistic.

So, this one is going to be tough on a technicalit, but what's the largest island in the world.

Greenland, Madagascar. Yeah.

Australia, Antarctica,

you know, you covered all the bases here the correct response is Greenland, but only because of a technicality anybody else would say it's Australia, except for the united nations have described the island of Australia as a continent, so it cannot be viewed as an island.

Why?, yeah.

Because - the UN says so.

Yeah, exactly. Exactly. Come on. I'm noticing a theme here in Kimberleigh's questions, by the way. Which country has the highest number of wild tigers?

India.

India. Yeah it is. And I believe we had this semi recently, but it's always worth repeating. Which country has the most tigers in its borders?

The U.S?

The United States is correct.

Blame Siegfried and Roy.

Because we allow people to own tigers, legally; and that means we are the biggest Tiger breeding ground that is not wild in the entire world. Speaking of streaming shows, need I say -

I was just thinking, "who hasn't seen Tiger King?"

Not me.

Not once,

I did watch it once. Once was enough.

Do you mean once, like you watched the whole season once, or do you just mean you watched one episode?

one episode,

I thought it was like, "Well, I haven't watched the whole season twice, if that's what you mean"

One preview was enough for me.

Yeah, That's enough. The National Flag of Bermuda has a unique image on it. What is that?

Is this the one where, what is it; they got like a machine gun or something like that?

No.



A triangle?

Nope.

A pennant?

A sail boat?

You know what, it is a boat Stephen; but it's not a sailboat.

Like a pirate ship?

A sunken ship?

Ah, Sister Erin, you said you weren't gonna get any right. It's a shipwreck. Yes, it's a shipwreck on their flag. Yes.

Wow.

That's a good representation because they've got their fair share of those.

It says, it represents the flagship of the Virginia Company because Admiral George Summers deliberately crashed the ship in 1609, to avoid an oncoming storm.

Okay.

Would that be like the equivalent of me crashing the car to avoid a parking space or something?

I like your analogy however I also want to acknowledge, Erin, partial credit for the triangle, I would have guessed oh there's something unique, you know, It makes perfect sense.

They should just embrace it right?

That's right.

Own it.

Exactly.

I read this a couple of years ago and I'm so happy it's coming up as a question because it's just one of those sort of simple sort of things. There is a very famous river, very famous river on the planet earth that has exactly, are you ready, zero bridges that span it. What is it?

Amazon?

It's the Amazon,

That was my guess, yeah, Amazon,

Zero bridges, It's too wide, its way too wide. Unbelievable. And by the way, the cultures along the Amazon have made a good business with ferrying people across so why would you build a bridge, you can make money that way.

They may or may not make it across. But if they get ferried.

So some people who follow the NBA know that the NBA franchise in Orlando, is the Orlando Magic. Why was this franchise named this way? Why is Orlando nicknamed The Magic City?

Magic Kingdom?

It's not

Because of a lot of Voodoo.

That's a good guess.

Is it the home to like what Harry Houdini's summer cottage or something like that. I mean,

I want to put the reason here in a box labeled this, you hear the Windy City when you think of Chicago and you go oh it must be windy there, but it's way more boring right. It was because of a group of politicians that never stopped giving speeches. That's where Chicago got its nickname.

Oh!

But what is a totally boring version of why something would be called the Magic City?

Because it's really actually boring, and they want to make it sound better.

No, it says," 60's, 70s and 80s era fast growing urban development. That's why it's called the Magic City. I find that personally really boring. Okay, I think you all know this one but it's always good for a chuckle. Which state is home to the company that makes Arizona iced tea?

New York?

New York, Brooklyn, New York. Yes, that's where Arizona iced tea is from. Yep. For the record, the founders wanted to compete with Snapple and needed to find something very, very catchy. And for whatever reason they chose the word Arizona.

I'm telling you, Diane Manica could start brewing right now.

Well I suppose it's hot and dry right so if you could—

Yeah.

People in Arizona would appreciate iced tea or would drink a lot of it so if you could associate the tea with.

Yeah. But I remember seeing a lot of it when I was in Arizona.

It's a tourist trap.

Right, exactly. That's all. So how about this. How many individual islands, make up the state of Hawaii?

7.

9.

8.

15.

You know what, It says it's eight major islands, but how many islands make up the state of Hawaii?

Oh, okay. Well, let's see.

Um, Hawaii, Oahu. Maui.

There's that little one

Lanikai?

The little one the Navy used for target practice.

It's not there anymore.

Oh,

How about this one for just a little bit of a softball, leading up to the era of colonization, what were the islands called? Does anybody remember?

The Sandwich Islands.

The Sandwich Islands. There we go. So all of the Sandwich Islands make up the state of Hawaii, by some estimation, it could be up to 100 individual landmasses.

Wow. Yeah, there's a lot of little ones.

Yep, exactly, but I'm really impressed, Beth just pulled it right off the top of your head. I think you knocked off at least four of the big islands, including the Big Island, also known as Hawaii. So, pretty interesting stuff so

Are those small islands, are they occupied at all or.

It's a good question. I, if you can believe it had an uncle in law who lives there with his family and they make a joke about the fact that sometimes like a sandbar will just rise above; you know, it's volcanic

right. The water, they're like "oh, we just gained a new island" you know i mean it's like it's, it's a different way of life, let's just put it that way.

And there's, you know, there's one off Maui that's just a little crescent shape. That's, that's great for diving. And then there's another one over near there Molokini or something that the Navy used for - well for shelling practice, and there's a lot of old live shells still there so you don't want to. You don't want to go there.

Molokai.

No no it's well south of Molokai right off of Maui. It's a small island.

Okay.

But developers want it, but it's too dangerous.

So, how about this one, because we're getting close to the end here. Okay, the island nation of Papua New Guinea. Okay, has the most languages spoken within its borders of any country in the world. How many languages,

Four hundred.

It's more

700.

It's more than 700

Someone said 1000.

Yep.

It's lower than 1000

902

It's lower than 902.

850.

It's 820 total languages spoken within its borders. That's a lot of language. Now, It doesn't make a lot of sense without a baseline. At least that's what the scientist says, How many spoken languages are there within the borders of the United States?

400

350.

Yeah, it's about just about half that. Um, the best. Oh, I'm sorry.

So how are they -- There are 350 languages spoken in this country? Are they counting dialects are they

That's a good question. It says, because I figured that someone like you would ask that question, Kimberly Richards says "the linguistic experts tell me that there are 6912 languages spoken on planet Earth.

Okay.

I'm sure my mom rattled off a handful of those when I was in trouble too. So -

If she was using your middle name.

The full baptismal name

Like migrants and refugees that come like for, or even, you know, folks who are visitors and things but like lots of tribal languages and places. So, you know, I think --

There are probably at least 100 Native American tribal languages.

So, I remember years ago as the chief of police of Southfield told me there were 127 languages spoken, that he knew of, spoken in Southfield.

Wow. There are a lot.

Yeah, I believe it for sure.

So we've reached the point in our show. We didn't do it in our last episode Erin, so you'll have to follow along here. We call it ATP favorites. We actually had a group of listeners write a list of over 150 things that you can have a favorite of, and they're interested in what these, you know intellectuals do with their spare time.

What intellectuals are you referring to?

And who's got spare time?

Everything I say is a lie. Um, I would like to refer to the list made by the Burroughs family and the next thing on the list is they want to know what your favorite scary movie is.

"Get out" . Easy.

Yeah, that's easy. That's good.

Jaws

Jaws.

I grew up on Cape Cod, and I learned that Jaws was filmed there, and I stopped swimming in the ocean for years.

I think, Erin, is that the opening sequence of Jaws remains the scariest opening sequence in film, although I agree that Get out was also incredibly scary. Yeah,

Yeah, I think that the music that goes along with jaws too helps intensify the effect.

oh it's brilliant.

We're gonna need a bigger boat.

For me it would have to be Friday the 13th. That's the first one I ever saw. That's scary. And that was good.

What were you saying Heather?

Alien. The first alien is pretty scary.

Oh yeah.

Yeah, I'm old school. I like The Exorcist.

Gotta watch it in a cool dark room.

The Omen or The Exorcist. Those two were always pretty good.

There's an episode of Doctor Who, the one where you first see the Weeping Angels. I actually jumped scared

That is very scary. Yes, yes.

Everyone's taking this in an interesting direction. I was trying to think what my response would be and at some level, you know, I want to say "Scream", just because it's a parody of the whole thing and it also is a good horror movie and it's right. Very postmodern, in terms of being like really, really scared. I believe I've mentioned it before on the show. The Blair Witch Project scared the living, you know what, out of me, and oh

No, Matt, I thought, what was that other one that you suggested that one time. The Sean Connery one, the Banshee.

Thardos. Oh,

that I wouldn't say that's a horror movie that was Darby Oh Gil and the little people but it didn't scare me when I watch

the Banshees special effects. That was creepy, man.

We're missing Halloween.

Yeah,

for the music alone.

and a great film.

That's a great film but the music is spooky.

I'm afraid professors that our time has come to say goodbye. Beth.

Goodbye,

Stephen

Bye

Dave, see ya

Mara.

Bye.

Heather.

Bye.

Jim

sayonara

Dan.

Goodbye,

Jeff.

Adios.

And Aaron

Sad to go. Hopefully I wasn't so bad that they won't invite me back.

Come back whenever you want.

And now these words, you can email ask the professor at ATP at UD mercy.edu or visit the Ask the professor Facebook page. 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 the Briggs building in the Department of Communication Studies in the College of Liberal Arts and education at the 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. Till next time, I'm your host Matt Mio.