

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 chimes ring in another session of Ask The professor, the show in 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. He's a man without a face, it's Professor Jeffe Boats,

The faceless wonder.

I am the ninja. you cannot see me

Remember, it was a Dick Tracy, Jeffe. The Blank was the person who had no like actual vision, but you can see their body so it's still different from where you.

I don't remember Dick Tracy. Very much. So I guess I'll be false face from Batman instead.

How are things going Jeff?

Not bad, not bad. weathering weathering the initial storm of online teaching, getting used to it.

Yeah, we all are. We all are, although you were mentioning that you're rather enjoying it.

I am. I don't know about the students. I hope they are. I hope they're getting the most out of it.

Sure.

Professor Dave Chow is here with us.

Pleasure to be here as always.

Excellent. And how were things on the other side of Berkley, Professor Chow.

I'm a little closer to the donut cutter than you are so - so far, so good.

So far, so good.

Yeah, The lineup in the morning is unreal, though.

It's out of control, I'm telling you.

Well, we need Dutch Girl to open up to alleviate that pressure.

So I have a suggestion. They should pre bag like half a dozen glaze, half dozen sugar and actually stand outside and let people kind of grab and go with like the most common things. Just a thought. Pass that along when you're there next time.

Probably Monday morning.

Professor Stephen Manning is here from the Department of retired. Happy Birthday Professor Stephen Manning.

Thank you.

Yes, indeed.

And what will the festivities surrounding your four day birthday weekend entail?

It's gonna last for four days? I was not aware of that.

It was a tough birth.

You know, you mentioned that. My mother claims since it's very close to Labor Day, my mother claimed that there was no Labor Day before my birth

That it was created as a result of the difficult birth.

Wow. Thanks, Mom.

in commemoration of her experience,

Thanks, Mom. All these years of guilt. Thanks for that.

You're talking to a man who was born on D day here, okay. I mean, come on.

I was about to introduce Professor Mara Livezey, but I think someone else got to it before I could.

Hello Jupiter.

Jupiter has found my mic

Yeah, apparently. Oh my gosh

This is why Mia cannot be in my office during class. She'll do exactly that. Yeah

it's a toy on a stick she's just got to get to.

How are things Mara?

Things are going good. You know, I am doing my best, you know, as I can and I'm finding the time actually to make a lot of small like concept videos that should help me for many years to come.

Excellent, most excellent. Investment not just for the semester.

Yes.

Professor Jim Tubbs is here with us.

Hello, Hello.

How are you doing, Jim?

Well, It's nice to be here on a Friday?

Absolutely. Friday always feels good. And it was one of my big lessons from six months of a pandemic. You can't take the Friday out of Friday, for whatever you do.

That's true.

Pretty sure that's necessarily true.

Have you taken the Friday out of Friday?

Um, that , that is a good question. Now, that's got my mind racing, a thousand miles per hour. I got to think about it. I don't know. I just don't know. Does it feel like a Friday? All I can say is it reminds me of the classic Seinfeld bit where Kramer is like, "Is it Wednesday? It feels like Tuesday" and they all look at him like -

See, your opinion on Friday all depends on what you've got to do on Saturday.

Right.

That's what makes all the difference in the world.

There's some truth to that because I remember working on the weekends in college and having to get up you know, the shift was 7 to 3 and, you know, not being particularly excited when Friday came around for just that reason.

Yeah.

All right, continuing around the horn here, Professor Heather Hill is with us today.

Hello.

hello. Hello.

What's up?

You tell us

I can tell you something, because you know -

How's the book coming?

What?

How's the book coming?

Eah, . Slow, but anyway, um, yesterday morning, I found a groundhog in the tomato patch.

A whistlepig in your tomato patch.

Ate a bunch of fresh grape tomatoes of the vine.

Of course.

Ah, yeah.

Those whistle pigs they will do it.

Then it ran into the garage.

No.

Did you kill it?

You don't kill it.

And then it started up the mower. And then it started doing the yard work.

Jeff I'm very thankful for that comment, because the first thing I thought of was some sort of sitcom where it runs in and then the car just leaves the garage immediately.

I'm going to the pet store. I've got a hundred bucks and all night

It was a pretty big groundhog.

Oh, that's not a good. Professor Beth Oljar is also here with us today.

Hello.

What's shakin, Beth?

Not much. looking forward to having Professor Manning and Professor Hill over tomorrow night for some food. Some quesadillas you know? Yeah. Yeah.

Yummy, yummy, yummy.

It's going to be a very mild weekend in Metro Detroit and I for one am very thankful.

It's like pre autumn here.

Yes it is. Last but most certainly not least is Professor Dan Maggio.

Hi, Matt, how are you?

What's going on?

Not much. Looking forward to the weekend. Extended weekend.

That's right. I'm sure you saw me do the classic "I'm talking to somebody else" thing a second ago because you know, Enzo may or may not have had his ear against the door to the room that I'm in and says, "give them this as a prop" because the green mushroom makes that sound in Super Mario Brothers. I'm gonna tell him to cool it for a while. Okay, like, take a couple weeks off. He really will be attacking this like he wants to help you. You know, so

He's passionate and invested. These are good things.

That's right.

are they actually playing Mario Brothers.

Um, there are many different modern versions as in over the last few years of Mario Brothers, but they do play those games. Yes.

Are they able to quit for two is that the same withdrawal symptoms that you would experience if you quit, say drinking or food,

yes,

yeah, yes. Like logically speaking, I think we gotta we got to go there at some point.

Okay,

folks, this is a program where you could send us questions regarding anything. If you stump the panel you can win a prize. You can send the questions to us in a number of ways. You can email us at ATP at UD mercy dot Edu find us on Facebook or Instagram, or if you'd like, listen on your favorite smart speaker by asking it to play ask the professor at University of Detroit Mercy. In honor of Professor Stephen Manning's 29th birthday, we have some questions written by Professor Stephen Manning here. And of course, he's on the call. So he's just gonna gloat the whole time as he stumps us over and over and over.

You don't get to answer them. I'm just

and by the way, Stephen, no grading rubric supplied. So -

We pass.

Yeah, we're assuming we'll pass no matter what.

I assume so. yes.

It's a good thing you're retired Stephen, because you'd be in big trouble with the syllabus people without putting a rubric on

what are the class outcomes?

I'll be assessing your every move.

is Matt frozen? Oh, there you go.

Uh-oh, are we losing Matt constantly?

Hey, Matt's stuck.

Oh my gosh. Well, can you hear me professors? Yeah,

yes.

Uh-oh, no, we lost you.

Not anymore.

Do you think his kids are playing with the modem?

Only a certain peanut bred specifically for the proper size --

No, we're not hearing you.

Virginia peanut.

You should start that question over again -

I didn't hear the question, but that's my answer.

Let me try again. This is of course, by the way, all my fault for hosting this zoom but we'll clean it up in post. Only a certain peanut, bred specifically for the proper size and look of the shell makes the cut for sale at major league baseball games. Although grown in several states, hint hint, what is the baseball peanut called? I think we already heard the right answer.

The Virginia peanut.

It's the Virginia peanut. Yes. Which, by the way, just for the record is grown in the Carolinas, Texas and New Mexico.

Okay.

I think I see where you're going with these, Stephen.

That's a good question.

Yeah, it is a good one. The Sports Business Journal reported in 2017, The average age of a major league baseball viewer viewer with a V was -

45

87

60.

I mean, if you take Jim and Mara, and do some fancy math, you end up right where you need to be - 57 years old. For the record, how many years older than the average age viewer of the NBA?

Probably 25

30

20

you guys are getting kind of funny, but it's 15. And that's frankly enough to if you start thinking about it, you know,

yeah,

yeah. So baseball should be concerned about that statistic.

Yep. They better be

well, but there's always a growing crop of old people

grew but don't they want to reach a younger audience?

I think just listening to my own family. I think younger people get impatient with baseball. They say it just moves too slow. We want something faster.

As a little league coach, I can't agree more with that. It's the hardest thing sometimes to get them to look at where the ball is, standing out in the field for more than five minutes. Spinning around throwing the cap around. Oh, look, a fly. You know.

That's why hockey is nice.

And that is why I like basketball.

I'm a Canuck, I'm loyal to my hockey.

Hockey's good

and fast.

I'm sticking with baseball. I love baseball.

Yeah.

I like basketball, which is a fast paced game. Of course, I went to University of Virginia, which sort of made its name from slowing it down. It's a fast paced game.

Have you guys watched some of the major league baseball double headers where they play seven innings? What do you guys think

I'm paying attention to one right now.

It's a wacky year.

But I thought I had heard that they were consider making that a permanent change in the game.

Well, maybe the doubleheader thing. I hope they make the extra innings start with the guy on second permanent because

That's terrible, terrible. awful, awful.

You don't need 15 inning games. That's enough. Ten, eleven's good.

Wait until someone wins. that's a that's a revolutionary concept

that can be like a game of cricket and go on for three days.

Every inning they should remove somebody from the field.

Like The Hunger Games version of baseball?

Exactly. Come on.

Harry Cary sniping from the press box

Try this next question Professors. We've only gotten through two here, and we're halfway through the show.

All right, lead on Mcduff.

A study conducted in March 2020, reflecting the opinion of 2250 subscribers asked quote, if one of the following sports had to vanish entirely, which would it be? The sports supplied as possible choices were soccer, football, basketball, baseball, hockey, who won?

football

football probably

American football.

football hit it at 46% of the vote ,that's a -

I used to love football. It used to be like a religion and then I had kids and all those concussion reports came out and I'm thrilled to death none of my kids could care less about football.

Yeah. So dangerous.

Absolutely. FYI, basketball was on the other end of that spectrum. So that's the one apparently everybody wants to retain, only really 7%

I thought I thought soccer would have been on there. Number one on there.

Soccer is kind of growing because there are people from so many other places here now for whom that's their major sport, that it's really growing

It's genuinely International, in a way

right? It is.

So is basketball these days. And it's also the easiest sport to play as a pickup. Just two guys and a ball and you can play a variation through basketball. Yeah,

yeah, one on one hockey just doesn't cut it. So

You gotta play three posts

How about this one. How many pounds of that baseball game day staple in-shell peanuts, that would normally be consumed at ballgames, may remain in storage during this season.

Pounds or tons,

right? That's what I was going to ask.

Two hundred.

I'd say more like 2000.

Yeah.

How about a few more orders of magnitude



Two million.

I'm giving it 2.3 million pounds.

Wow.

Per year.

Don't they get stale?

No, apparently not.

Peanuts last for a long time.

They do.

That's a whole lot of allergies to have.

Especially Virginia peanuts.

Yeah. Now one thing you can do is you can make boiled peanuts with them. And then the last even the longer,

or you can feed them to pigs and you end up with really good hams. So like, ever. I'm not kidding. I'm fairly sure some Southerner was the first person to do that.

No way. I've read it in my Nero Wolfe novels. I don't know if it's actually true, but it feels true. It should be true.

Yeah, why not?

And this week's edition of the Beth Oljar Show is brought to you by bacon. Bacon is awesome.

Little Pigs are just bacon seeds. Come on. Oh,

Wait a minute, are we suddenly gonna replace zombie Beth with bacon Beth now?

You know when I think about it, Beth, the Virginia peanut company. which is down on the eastern shore, is not too far from the Smithfield ham producers.

Wouldn't surprise me

You're listening to a special edition of Ask The professor, in which each of the nine professors participating in this recording session were connecting to each other from different locations thanks to zoom video conferencing technology. We're grateful to those listeners who submitted questions for today's show, and we welcome your questions at ATP at UD mercy.edu. Now, let's return to our host Matt Mio with more questions for the panel.

We have some questions written by Professor Stephen Manning. Here's a good one, who holds the Major League Baseball record for consecutive games played.

Oh, that Orioles guy. What's his name?

Cal Ripken, Jr. Yeah,

Yeah, Cal Ripken, Jr.

Cal Ripken, Jr. was 2632 consecutive games, who held the record before him?

Was that Lou Gehrig?

iron man, I think

it was Lou Gehrig. Yeah,

Technically, he did.

I was trying to make a joke.

I love the way that you did this percentage Stephen, It said Gehrig was 2130 . Gehrig played in 2164 in 17 seasons, so 98% of the games he ever played in his career were in service to that record. That's absolutely incredible.

What are the details surrounding the longest game ever played in professional baseball history?

Hmm,

Let's do how many innings there were

It was 25 innings? I think it was.

Yeah. 20 something.

25, no 26. Yeah,

No, you're not gonna believe this. But Holy smokes. It was north of that.

Ah, this must

Was 35 like farther back?

If it's gonna be hard and 26?

You know, it says here that there were 33 innings.

Oh,

that's a baseball game in hell. I mean, yeah.

I was - just the other day I was watching mlb.com I forget what game I was watching and they talked about the longest game ever being 26 innings. But maybe this is after a certain point like modern era or something. I don't know.

So, you know what it says is that it's the longest game ever in professional history, which includes the minors. So the Pawtucket Red Sox played the Rochester Redwings, and it's a real game because that gets recorded into the record books. Are you sitting down? I think you all are. Eight hours 25 minutes.

You wonder if anybody in either of those towns ever went to a baseball game again.

Probably stretched out over more than one day. If it started at night, they probably didn't finish the same day.

That's exactly right. It says after a 30 minute delay from the scheduled 8:25pm start time because of lighting problems. The first 32 innings were played on April 18. into the early morning of the 19th. With the teams locked in a tie, the game was called at 4am it was finally decided in the 33rd on June 23. with of course, making Heather happy, Pawtucket taking the win at three to two. Wow.

How do you deal with pitching at that point because you can't possibly have that many pitchers

N, other players coming in and pitch.

Yeah, I know but

not pitches.

Now if other players are coming in and pitching. How is the score three to two. these teams must have been awful.

Reminds me the old days of the Tigers. I'm like, if Don Kelly is pitching and this

Holy smokes,

He could do a lot of things. You know, I think he played every position on the on the field.

You know, what was it, wasn't the Detroit Milwaukee game the other night was like 12 to 1, they had the shortstop pitching in the ninth. Yeah, I mean, it looked, it was okay.

So, that was that that those that's those facts were from actually from a story, I was reading about the Pawtucket Red Sox, which is the Red Sox triple A team, leaving Pawtucket and moving the team to Wooster Mass. Pawtucket, of course, is in Rhode Island. So that that's where that story that those facts came from. Yeah.

Let's switch gears for our final questions of the day. How many miles of public beaches are there in New York City?

New York City.

Counting all the borough's

Oh okay.

public beaches. 25.

If it's a beach along the Hudson River that counts, right?

Oh, it's very small because it's all privately owned?

No it's relatively small. It No. Jim said hits 25 and he's over, but not by too much.

18.

It's a crazy guess. Yeah, it's 14 miles. York City. so it's small, you know,. Again, I can't help but think of Seinfeld. Wait Kramer you took your swimming lessons in the dirtiest public waterway in the United States of America? Kramer's response. Technically Norfolk has more gross tonnage.

I just remember Bobby Kennedy saying one time "If you fell into the East River, you wouldn't drown you would dissolve.

A couple more here profs saffron is taken from the crimson red stigmas of the saffron crocus. How many stigmas or tiny threads are there in every flower of that crocus?

many, which is why it's so expensive. Yeah,

it's three. and are you sitting down? How many flowers does it take to make a single ounce of saffron?

Oh, it's 20,000 or something? Yeah, like 100

it's 4000 flowers.

Wow.

That's why it's the most expensive spice in the world.

That is Like a New Year's Day parade float.

At least. at least. Oh my gosh.

So you won't be making saffron rice tomorrow night, Beth?

I will not, and part of the reason for that is that saffron is not really part of my flavor profile. I don't particularly like it, which means I'm not a paella person.

See. Yeah.

It's so good.

I am a paella person.

And let's be clear, by the way, when it comes to the paella, I learned this during the summer. The only service of the saffron is the coloring of the rice, which is really important to the people of Spain. It must be the right rice color. So those flowers, I salute you,

More power to you.

Okay, here we go. We're gonna wrap it up. These questions are great, Stephen. What was the peak year for drive-in theaters in the United States? We can go by part of a decade if you want to.

1958

1963

I would guess the 70's actually.

You know, Jim was the first one I heard and basically he's right. It's late 50s. How many drive in theaters were there in the United States?

Thousands

3000

It says here that there were 4000 drive in theaters.

4000.

Wow.

What does everybody else think about this idea of drive-ins being repurposed in the pandemic for public space, I just find that

If only they were still around. Yes. Ah, it would be great.

I remember the last movie I saw the drive in.

Because you could use them for a lot of things. You could use them for drive-in worship as well, which has been done.

Which I think is really, really cool.

Yeah, it would be great if they were just available, because that happened when I was growing up,

Wait a minute, they show movies there, oh,

So, as of the late 20 teens, how far had the number from the late 50s gone from 4000?

It's probably down to about 800 now, isn't it?

now 160 some

like 400

Yeah,

That's sad.

When you all guess these numbers it's always interesting. You know, it's it's only about 300 300.

Wow.

Of course, there's Ford-Wyoming in Metro Detroit. The old timers still kicking. You can show a first run movie if people stay in their car, relatively speaking.

that correlates also with declining infant, uh declining birth rates.

Like I said "who goes to a drive-in to watch a movie? I well,

I am so confused.

I'll explain later.

Is that why my middle name is jaws three

Your middle name is concessions

I I've only been to a drive-in once in my entire life when I was a quite a bit younger but I can remember the movie that I saw there, and it was Gremlins and it was spectacular.

Oh my. I feel so old.

I can remember going with my whole family to see the 10 commandments in what was it 1956 57

Jim, we hate to tell you - that wasn't a drive in

You were actually there Jim.

That wasn't the drive in

That was real life.

You all are pretty much on fire and I gotta say thanks to the listeners and our panel for filling in for my bad internet connection today, but I'm afraid that that's all the time that we have. So it's time to say goodbye, Dan.

Goodbye,

Beth, bye

Heather. Bye.

Jim. Good bye,

Mara, bye

Stephen by

Dave. See ya.

And Jeff. Let's go to the lobby and get ourselves a treat

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 in The Department of Communication Studies in the College of Liberal Arts and education at the University of Detroit Mercy's Nichols campus. were produced and directed by Michael Jayson and Brian maisonville. And our executive producer is Professor Jason Roche. Until Next time, I'm your host, Matt Mio.