

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. To my left, to somebody else's right, or who knows what it's Professor Dave Chow

pleasure to be here as always.

Excellent. So you were kind of doing the.

I didn't know where you were going because on my zoom, you're beneath me, your the center square today.

I am beneath you. You know that it's true.

You're directly beneath me.

Oh, this is like a bed bunk bed right about now with the bed wetters. I mean this is strange.

You didn't have to embellish that, Dave.

Oh, Sorry.

Dave, How are things on the other side of Berkley.

I'm on two hours of sleep right about now. I'm a bit of a zombie.

Okay,

well,

oh, you show it well.

Things are going well, other than the lack of slumber.

For the most part, a little crazy a little busy so all is good.

Busy is good. it's a pandemic, you know

I don't know, I could use a little bit sleep, that's all.

Well I hope that you're able to achieve sleeping very very soon.

If I was still driving to CCS, I would just tell my students I get plenty of sleep on the freeway, So,

That's right.

Someone who is acknowledging this fact and wondering just how true it might be is Professor Beth Oljar.

Yeah, no kidding I don't really want to think about the consequences of that being true, but you know I guess your luck has held up to this point so

Just go for it from there. We need to know your license plate Dave so that if we do see you we can, like, take the first exit

Yes, Matt, when I go southbound on Woodward. I just throw the car into neutral during rush hour and just let them push me along.

If you were in Oregon, everything would be orange anyway. So Drew's sister has been sending us pictures or posting pictures to Facebook about what it looks like at home. Now, and, of course, you know, half a million people have basically been evacuated or lost their homes in Oregon which is kind of a record we've never had Yeah,

it's hard.

incredible. Yeah, somebody basically blanket texted me the other day and said, OMG, Google orange San Francisco right now. And it's like suddenly the tech stream just like takes off because some of those pictures of Golden Gate, 10am, it's apocalyptic, it's just incredible. (@ elapsed time 02:53)

But if the pictures from Oregon in white look like fairly affluent neighborhoods with wide streets, there was just nothing, there were not timbers standing in these homes they were just wiped out.

Where are the half a million people going Beth.

Ah, well, either two parts of the state that are unaffected which I assume would be in the eastern part of the state, although Medford, which is in Southern Oregon I know the community right next to it has been devastated and I think Medford was hit pretty hard. I assume they're going east.

Okay, okay.

I mean we're used to, you know, Ash being all over everything right, what happened when St Helens blew right used to the this half inch of crud that was, was run everywhere but not things just being utterly destroyed.

Yeah, who doesn't like a good coating of crud, on a cool fall day.

No seriously though I mean there is a weather pattern, that's coming where we get affected by, you know fires as well there is more chance, there's more chance of fog where we live when it comes to things like that the weather pattern comes across the state of Michigan from west to east. So, we are affected by it no matter

I heard you could hear, they were getting plumes of smoke as far east as Alabama.

Incredible.

Global warming so

hey Matt, did you see that one meme with uh San Francisco and comparing that to Blade Runner.

I get the reference. I can tell you that much,

the color match was unreal so

I thought that you were gonna tell me about the one where it's a skeleton clinging to a chain link fence with sort of a blast of fire blowing over it and underneath it, it said "it's a boy"

absolutely horrible absolutely horrible

San Francisco is such a beautiful city.

Yeah, it is. Professor Dan Maggio is also here with us today. You look like you're in, you know, regular sort of a grayscale mode,

I am wearing a T shirt today. Oh, which is unusual. I'm glad we live in a state that sees relatively few natural disasters,

and I do agree with that statement

hurricanes and fires and earthquakes. We're pretty lucky.

Seriously, what's the worst we get?

Yeah, I would say the worst we get is like, you know, Dutch Girl was closed for about six months and we had to deal with that.

I have a Dutch Girl story, On Wednesday I was driving home at eight o'clock for class, and I drove by Dutch girl and they were open, and there was a long line outside at eight o'clock at night. So I didn't even think donut shops are open at night.

they are open when they're open 24 hours a day seven days a week, and this is the first time they've been open in six months,

that's a lot of stored up sugar needs.

I'm surprised that they, I mean you could be open and sell donuts through the window, so there must there must have been a reason why they chose to stay closed anyway. They're obviously very popular and people were waiting for doughnuts on Wednesday night,

the Facebook headline was "Dutch Girl to open next week, gives us reason to live". I'm like, you know, they're not cutting any corners. Yeah. Professor Jim Tubbs is here looking pretty spry in his light green.

Good afternoon.

Good afternoon Count Tubbs.

Hello. How are you,

things you said. I said it's been a week you were like, join the club. How was your week Jim.

Well, it's just been interesting I mean this teaching when you're not seeing anybody is just weird just weird it because, you know, let's face it teaching is a performance art anyway. And when there's nobody to perform to that you can see nobody to make eye contact with, no eyes to see if they're getting it or not, you know, it's just

But then I don't have to do with all of the sweat, which is kind of nice.

Beth, this is what I have in front of my camera. I put this in front of my camera so I make eye contact with the camera.

Yeah, no, that's a good idea

because I'm not like looking down at my shoes. Yeah,

the PowerPoint slide takes up most of the screen so I'm just like a little bitty thing in the corner unless I'm introducing them to Mia, which I did this morning but

You're like kazoo from the Flintstones, you just sort of pop in the corner and you only see their head and magic things happen whenever he speaks.

Those of course being the dulcet tones of Professor Jeffe boats.

Yabba dabba doo.

you get the bonus points for mentioning the great kazoo today

that are mixel Click, right from the superfriends where we only see their head and then the goofy stuff happens.

That's right. He says his name backwards he goes back to the Dark Dimension That's right. Absolutely. So what do you do to remind yourself to look into the camera Jeffe.

Oh well, actually, as you can see my camera doesn't work on my computer, it's about 10 years old, the one I use so I guess I have to make up for the lack of my mug on the screen with as many goofy stupid math jokes as I think of that seems to do the trick.

I feel like you've saved up a good number of those though, so you're good to go.

Oh yeah, yeah I dropped one in Calc 3 this morning, you know, Here's a calc 3 joke right. What do you get when you cross a mountain climber with a goat,

Nothing, you can't cross scalars.

(Laughter)

You got to know some calculus to get that,
because a mountain goat scales up mountains. Okay,
yes.

A little Epsilon bit of humor there. Epsilon's slightly greater than zero.

Let me tell you, this is a program where you can send us questions regarding anything. If you stump the panel you win one of our prizes. Very nice. You can send us the questions in a number of ways, emailing us at ATP at UD, or find us on Facebook, and, or Instagram or listen on your favorite smart speaker by asking it to play as the professor at University of Detroit Mercy. I'll read the header paragraph here "Well professors, it looks like you made it through the last three rounds, and I hope that you enjoy this one because it may get a bit more challenging. Welcome to part four of the saga of this former Detroit Mercy student setting up fierce queries against some of the apparently best brains in higher ed. This time, I advise you not to get too comfortable. I'm raising the bar to 19 of 22."

We're some of the best brains in higher ed?

Oh my gosh, you all are cracking me up

"this set of questions from various categories like the previous are or maybe like the rivers of lava, the traps and monsters that so many brave women and men of fantasy and adventure stories have tried to brave. Overcome these mental challenges. If you dare and if you must, I assure you that it won't necessarily be a picnic inside a boiling volcano. Whoo, there's a bonus question at the end too, but again I wish you the best, Natalie Bohay, Detroit Mercy alumna 2011 from Sterling Heights, Michigan", let's see what we've got cooking here, she writes in the, what we like to call the Kimberly Richard style with lots of great background information.

Cool.

Vicks Vapor Rub is a classic treatment for cough and cold and has become a cultural touchstone in the Hispanic and Latin community, its active ingredients are camphor, Eucalyptus and menthol. Name any one of its inactive ingredients so a non pharmaceutical.

Glycerin.

Basically

um petroleum jelly.

Yeah, you know, I'm going to give you for glycerin, Beth the petrol atom which was mentioned by both of these gentlemen that's definitely one of them for sure. It also includes a cedar oil, nutmeg oil, thymol, which for the record is the spice that's found in rosemary, and that turpentine

Turpentine.

Oh yeah,

And - it only works if your primary caretaker puts it on you.

Right

It only works if your mom puts it on or whoever is your,

it's like tickling, you can't serve yourself.

Do you have to sing Soft Kitty, when you put it on.

Ah, I do not. No.

Baby shark.

Yeah, exactly. Baby Shark. It says here that Vicks Vapor Rub can be used to treat fungus, acne, pain, insomnia and headaches, as well as repelling mosquitoes. So this is quite the versatile –

Really, on the mosquitos?

I can see where it would repel mosquitoes.

Insomnia?

Apparently, I believe eucalyptus oil soothes you to sleep.

right exactly. what it says here is that some had been told to put a dropper to in their beverages. I'm like, that's pushing it a little bit for me

way too far. Yes.

Interesting. Interesting.

how do you get it into a drop.

Heat it up,

gravity.

Just do a dollop? You could say dollop. Would that help, Jim?

Are any of those ingredients poisonous?

probably

They're not good things to eat, I can tell you that.

Professors: in November of 1983 on PBS Sesame Street had a television special that had the gang in an overnight adventure where they accidentally get locked in the Metropolitan Museum of Art overnight and Big Bird and Snuffleupagus befriend a 4000 year old Egyptian Prince, by the way, played by a very young Arom Chaudhary. What was the episode titled? It had a good kid name.

At Night at the Museum.

That's a good guess but that's not it.

Was it dealing with the King Tut exhibit

Meeting the mummy.

And that's a good one too. The hint is the title pertains to Cookie Monster's habit of pretty much chewing up everything.

Eating the Met.

"Don't Eat the Pictures", is what it was called. It make sense from the Sesame Street perspective, you know.

And they hadn't fed him like Banksy either.

Yeah, exactly, or halfway, right. and it said that the actor that played the prince actually died about 10 years later, suddenly. that's kind of sad.

Huh, some weird curse involved there

Yes, exactly

like a Howard Carter thing.

Right, right, Tutankhamun.

or Bruce Lee and his son.

Yeah.

Brandon Lee, the crow. Absolutely. About time of year to watch the Crow, just like to –

Great movie

How many pounds did the heaviest circular pizza weigh?

49.

No, no,

Thin crust or deep dish. It was huge. It, um, 49 is a little low.

Oh, 750

750, is really, really low,

a ton.

That's a little low.

Good grief, where was this pizza?

This pizza was made in 1990 in Norwood, South Africa.

And was it the size of the country.

Yeah. Did it take the whole town.

(@ 00:14:18)

Well I mean, I can give you the other numbers that will probably get you at least to the right order of magnitude

What did the pan look like?

they didn't use one.

Yeah, 9920 pounds of flour, 3360 pounds of chopped tomatoes, 1763 pounds of mushrooms,

like three times.

So, probably more like eight or 10 tons?

So I think Dan's been the closest here was 26,883 pound pizza is what it was.

Okay 13 tons of.

Well, what I want to know is how did they cook it; because if they didn't cook it to me it's a big pile of stuff. it's not a pizza.

Yeah.

Yeah. And I'm less impressed,

122 feet and eight inches across Yeah,

I guess my question is What did they do with it after they recorded the event? did they serve it up.

They invited three other countries to come in and have lunch,

How long would it take to slice it. I mean, just to -

I would just hate to see it go to waste.

It's true. It's true.

You're listening to a special edition of Ask The professor, in which each of the six 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 program, and we welcome your questions at ATP at UT mercy.edu. The professor's returned to answer more questions in just 80 seconds. But first,

(ATP Break and Flashback)

How about this one from Natalie Bohay, from Sterling Heights, Michigan. Barbasol. Barbasol the product.

Yes,

Can be used for cleaning surfaces, and treating sunburn. true or false.

Yeah.

Yes, I know it can be used for cleaning surfaces, um I expect it can be used for sunburn too.

Yes, it has a cooling effect, so that is exactly what Natalie's got here. apparently that's a true statement.

Hey, you can use a barbasol can to store dinosaur embryos.

you can.

Oh,, Jurassic Park.

Well, that's right, that's exactly right. store the embryos

Poor embryos.

Combine the name of a famous child star with that of a famous person with autism. What name do you get?

Temple Grandin

Shirley Temple Grandin. There you go. We're doing this a Jeopardy style where we'll do the portmanteau.

Yeah, absolutely.

Okay, let's see here a YouTube video uploaded in June of 2010 showed a parade that involved delivery trucks, carrying what item from what confectionery company

What year was it again, Matt?

was June of 2010 is what it says here, the parade of trucks was driving down the Ohio Turnpike with a police escort. This is kind of interesting.

Last ever necco wafers

no no that's that's a pretty good guess, because they did go out of business recently.

Hershey bars.

So, Ohio Turnpike. that's Toledo to Cleveland.

The last clue if you can think about it, apparently they're from a confectioner called Molly's Malleys. Does that ring any bells

Mallo Cup

apparently Malley's is a confectioner in the Cleveland area very well known for its chocolate strawberries. The parade was documented happening in the dead of night because they were afraid people were going to try to derail it to steal the chocolate strawberry So, under cover of night, they decided to deliver the chocolate strawberries. It is pretty interesting.

Where to, to wher?

it doesn't say,

just to the store,

just to the stores, I think, Yeah,

they're not that good. I mean,

they're okay

It's not like people are going to attack the trucks or something.

It's not like the Mio household and pork buns.

That's right.

I knew that was coming.

And during Lent.

Okay. The North African country of Tunisia is home to what landmark, which is a residential peculiarity, this is interesting too

what they saw them on Star Wars, is that

that's a reasonable thing but that's not exactly what's being asked for here,

Tunisia,

it's a residential peculiarity or

It's a residential peculiarity. What do they have in Tunisia that is out of the ordinary?

Tunisia.

Residential peculiarity.

No idea, a lot of sand, maybe.

They don't have any freeways,

a lot of sand, what I was thinking is residential peculiarity. so this is a very out of the ordinary place for a human to live. And they actually live there.

Clawson.

Our weekly reference to the great city of Clawson

Is it like caves or mountains or

yeah Dan, You got it. It's the world's largest underground cave home system. Oh, and the people live outside on the outskirts of let's see Mata Mata, you'll find a small community of Berbers that have lived in these caves do a big open hole in the ground for hundreds of years yeah

no like Cappadocia, in Turkey. Yeah,

Or kinda like Wyandotte and the salt mines.

Things are getting a little salty

salty.

Oh my gosh. Okay, how about the infamous corpse flower, which is endemic to Sumatra is very purple, but totally stinks when it blooms on the most unexpected occasions. Do you have any idea what the scientific name for that plant is.

No,

it's a, it's a very interesting name.

Well , what would be Latin for limburger.

Right, that's the direction we're going here,

plantas pewus?

gotta give partial credit for that.

now I'm thinking

Now wait a second, wait a second, Beth. What did you just say,

Ah, I was trying to think of the Latin for death, which is

For a second there I thought you were going in the right direction. you're actually relatively close amorfophallus titanum. I was hoping that somebody would gravitate to the like big idea so big, big is basically what you're getting out of that. So you weren't all that far off on this

I was gonna go fungus among us, but that wasn't gonna work so

it doesn't smell bad if you're, you know, a flesh eating fly. I'm sure it smells lovely

Smells lovely.

Thank you for that, Beth.

To do that, kind of.

Let's see if you know your Michigan history here. Once upon a time in the mid 19th century in Michigan, there was a kingdom on Beaver Island. The king was a Mormon who made himself a king, but believed that God desired him to reign for six years. he ran until he was assassinated sadly in 1856, do you remember his name.

No, but I can picture the story and I can picture the sign on the island. It's not Scott is it? No, James?

Yeah, James is the first name that's good as the good enough there, his name was James Strang. Absolutely.

That's it. Yes,

basically split off from the Mormon Church, declared himself, you know, chief of the island and he also for a short time apparently was a Michigan Congress member so that's pretty interesting.

I didn't know

if Stephanie had been here, she would know that.

So he would have known that because they go to Beaver Island.

It's a beautiful beautiful place by the way. is it possible to cut a cake, without a knife or spatula?

Sure.

I would say, define what a means to cut a cake.

Wire

wire. Yeah,

this is Natalie's interpretation It'd be great if I heard some stories of the professors telling how they've used dental floss to cut pastries. it's like you know what we'll get back to you on

why. Okay, as a person who has competed in numerous pie and cake eating contests, it gets in the way.

Not just string, you can use lasers to cut a cake.

Yeah. Yeah, you could, if you had a powerful enough laser that would be totally

You could just use a spoon or a fork. It could be kind of messy, but, you know,

actually have you guys. Have you guys heard about the laser cutting technology now, They're starting to use those in culinary arts, you can actually sculpt chocolate using a laser cutter.

No, Mr Bond I expect you to eat.

Let's wrap up this great set of questions from Natalie with a one more true or false. So we got a 5050 shot here. Okay, quill pens were the most common writing tool during the early days of the Roman Empire true or false,

false,

false,

okay. Can you fill in the gap though Jim,

I thought it was like graphite or chalk or something that they

I'm thinking a stylus, that would just carve in to like wet clay,

I'm thinking lead. e they used it in their pipes they probably wrote with it to

actually we get all the way to Jeff and that hits it. they were usually either made of reeds, or metal with sharp tips for jotting things down. And it did not come into play until just about the sixth century so it's a very interesting twist historically there. Those are some great questions Natalie. you always send us some

Yeah, they are good questions. They are a full set . Still no ocean liner questions. I'm still waiting, but, you know,

I like those potpourris. those are kind of cool.

Let's take a quick look as we wrap up our show here at the next thing on the list from of course the great Frank burrows and his family ATP favorites. Last time you remember we did fictional places you'd like to visit. Um, this one's a little more simple and practical. What's your favorite department store to go to.

I'm sentimental. I'm Hudson's.

That's too bad.

But it doesn't exist anymore, so where do you go to now,

I don't.

There is no such thing as a department store is there,

I guess I'd have to say Macy's because there's not a lot of competition.

There was one in Oregon when I was growing up called Meyer and Frank is are out of business now but it was my favorite department store, I mean now they're, Dan's right, I mean what Kohl's JC Penney

Yeah, I'm kind of afraid that if Mara were here she would have answered Amazon and then that would have been like, Good night everyone.

Actually, then she spent some time in Toronto, visiting the Hudson Bay Company.

Yeah. The Bay. That's right,

Barkley was wrong. to be is not to be perceived. to be is to be for sale on Amazon. That's my theory of existence now.

Oh true so true. anybody can get published. Yeah, it's a it's kind of sad to hear a term like department store. I wonder if I would asked my kids, what's a department store. What the response would be. I mean you know the word store. They know the word department, I'm not sure they've ever really put them together. I'm afraid we reached the end of our show for today though, so I'd like to thank our panelists,

Jeffe

See ya later.

Jim

Goodbye.

Dan.

Take care.

Beth

A deos,

Dave,

See ya.

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 facilities of all the places where we live and work, but if we were actually here, it would be in the Department of Communication Studies at University of Detroit Mercy's McNichols campus, were produced and directed by Michael Jayson and Brian Maisonville, and our executive producer is Professor Jason Roch. until next week. I'm your host Matt Mio.