

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 me 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. Professor Jeffe Boats is here from the Department of Mathematics, and remember when we used to make the joke about how long your department's name was, it's just the Department of Math now, right.

I guess that's evolution, is that an improvement I'm not sure.

It reminds me of our old, what was it, branding phrase for the university how every year they sort of knocked words off of it until it was just Things.

Great Things. Yes, yeah.

Boundless absolutely boundless .How's it going Jeffe?

Not too bad. Not too bad. The. We haven't run out of infinity yet so calculus classes are still going fine.

Well that's good. Absolutely.

We seem to have a never ending supply
that goes on forever.

There are different kinds of infinity, Yes?

Uh, very many yes there are an infinite number of types of infinity.

Okay, yeah,

Totally makes sense to me.

And I think yeah what did I go up to I think I went all the way up to differential equations I had Sister Loretta, Jeffe, for that. Sister Loretta Sullivan.

you wouldn't see the different infinities at that level, but yeah there's. We actually have them we call them the transfinite numbers, numbers beyond regular old, you know sideways eight different types, it's kind of neat stuff.

It's pretty cool. What would be the title of a course where I could explore is that like number theory or,

I talked a little bit about it in math history, but you'd have to get into set theory, or, or maybe a logic class to start talking about that.

There you go.

You're bringing back some rather painful memories.

We're just trying to live in our uncomfortability, that's all.

Symbolic Logic for fun and profit,
um,

let me know how to profit. I'm interested in that. It is fun

It was Symbolic Logic, so it wasn't proving things within a particular logical system you were proving things about a logical system, which was even harder.

I'm sure

I know very little about actual mathematical logic, all I know is I take one look at those papers and it looks like it's in another language, and I literally can't even read them, let alone understand them.

Well yeah, I've got a nephew that teaches chemical engineering and I can't decipher the names of the courses he teaches.

There's a really funny scene in the Marvelous Mrs Maisel that takes place in a differential equations course though.

Oh, Now I've got to research that has to do with vectors.

Oh yeah, that was near the beginning.

Professor Dave Chow is here from, of course, the Department of Insomnia.

Pleasure to be here. as always,

You are the chair, last time I checked.

I'm the department too, so yeah. I am yeah I'm zombie Beth right about now, that's all so

Dave, are we gonna see you on any episodes of spooky shows anytime soon.

I'm supposed to record one here in Detroit, but, you know, I don't know where or when just yet so

Ooh, let us know where

Can we come watch?

no you guys can't come stalk us on the show, I don't even know where it's at. Yeah, yeah like I said they contacted me pre COVID, and it's gone silences so, we'll figure it out, you know, they're still doing some shows,

Well, if they somebody to play the ghost,

No no no no, we're okay. Okay really

Professor Jim Tubbs is here, technically department of retired but also technically department of still teaching Religious Studies.

Yes, still teaching ethics courses, yes, even though I'm retired, and I was surprised by finding I was going to have to do it online so that's an interesting twist.

I did have, because it was extremely predictable, the first colleague come a few weeks ago, and I'm not exactly certain anybody that you all would know, say like "yeah I'm done. I'm not coming back in January so you have a good life."

Because of online

It just, you know,

That was somebody who decided \that?

Someone did decide that. Well, we were talking having a very vigorous discussion about, someone had done a very large amount of preparation like we've all talked about for a very very largely enrolled course 174 students, and they said, "You know, I really should be teaching this class again. I don't want to spend time that I need to be teaching the class right now prepping what I'm going to do differently for a different course in January like this is. This is nuts" and I could see on zoom the look on the person's face kind of evolved and, you know, I got an email in my inbox, a couple days later like "you know I was saying I was going to do this in a couple years, but maybe I don't want to completely change all the courses I'm teaching next winter."

Oh, I think if they were offering the early retirement thing again now they would probably get a lot of takers.

Yes,

I'm not doing logic in the winter. I mean, I just didn't even want to do that, I'm kind of wussie for that I'm sure. you know Jeffe is teaching math, you're teaching chemistry online. I just didn't really want to bother with it, so Dave's doing critical thinking again.

Okay, okay, that's cool.

If we're still having to do this next year I'll, I'll obviously figure out how to, how to do it I'll get a tablet or something for it from I.T. and figure out how to make it work but

a whiteboard, you can use in your class

We have one of those on collaborate, I just don't - I'm not quite sure how I can write on the whiteboard in collaborate quite as quickly and easily as I do on an actual whiteboard with an actual pen so, yeah.

Perhaps I'm just a techno chicken,

Well, you know the alternative, Beth, is to use one of those empty classrooms that has a whiteboard and just prop up your computer with your camera pointing at you and the board, and then you can do it that way. There's a, on the third floor of Briggs there's a lot of unused classrooms.

I'm still not teaching it in the Winter.

Unless you're going to be broadcasting from Acapulco or something like that, then there'd be the flopsweat issue.

Professor Dan Maggio is also here with us today.

Hello, Matt.

He wanted us to know he's not wearing a polo.

I am not. But I have to ask – So the professor who's teaching a class of 174 students, Is their compensation different than a professor who's teaching a class of 10?

It is not.

That seems really unfair.

You think?

There are lots of unfair things in this world. And there's lots of conversations we have just in general with regard to the pandemic, you know, what kind of product are we delivering. And when I start bringing in the quantitation across many many students, this professor recently remarked to me, you know, they're going to be your students next year, and we usually have, and it's very vulgar I apologize, some sort of, like, not if you like fail a whole bunch. And the professor fought back with “you think I'm gonna do that, like everybody's getting at least a B- this year”

And I'm like, What are you doing? So it's gonna be, I mean, Mary Lou Caspers said this the other day, and I've been thinking it, but she verbalized it, it's like “for the rest of these peoples' lives. Oh, you were in high school during the, Oh, you're in third grade, you know I mean it's gonna be like that. Dr. Fauci was on CNN today he says “do not expect to go back to a theater, major sporting event or concert until 2023, the end.

Oh,

that seems right.

Yep. Oh, that's what we're dealing with here.

Now I was thinking today, you know, my parents could tell you exactly where they were when JFK was shot. And I can tell you all about the Challenger explosion. And then of course 911, that was, you know, when I just started here that with the college students get to remember that. I think COVID. You know, my first thought this morning was I think COVID is going to be what the kids and teenagers, remember, and when they first, you know, got quarantined. And then the second thought I had was I sure hope that's the thing, because if it isn't that means something worse is coming. Exactly. I hope COVID is their thing.

Yeah. Yeah. In other words, you hope this is as bad as it gets.

Bingo.

Professor Beth Oljar is here for the Department of Philosophy, we all know what she's not teaching, starting in January,

Which I kind of miss, because I actually like teaching Symbolic Logic quite a bit. Yeah, I mean I guess I don't have so much of a problem with the movies or sporting events thing, I want the restrictions to be eased a little bit more on entertaining at home so that I can have friends over a little more easily. I mean, Dan and Tom have come over and we ate dinner outside and we can socially distance within my family room but it would be nice to be able to entertain again, that's. This is so unnatural for human beings to be isolated in this way, that, you know, I hope for everybody sanity that those restrictions can be eased a little bit more. Before 2023.

Beth you saw the almost immediate backlash this last week when LA County basically goes, the county around LA, we're not doing Halloween this year, and then all the memes start with hey we got the masks we got the social distancing we got the outdoor angle Halloween is a go, man. I thought that was interesting.

I'm still going to be buying six humongous bags of candy for here and.

Have you seen those uh devices, you know, people, but building the PVC tubes?

PVC tubes so you can drop a piece of candy like out the front door and it shoots down and lands in the bucket of the kid 6 feet away. pretty cute pretty cute. I tell you what folks this is a show where you could send us questions regarding anything it's been a while since we've had Halloween questions, not written by me. If you stump the panel you win one of our prizes if you don't stump the panel you get a prize, you can send us the questions in a number of ways you can email ATP at UD mercy.edu, find us on Facebook or Instagram or listen on your favorite smart speaker by saying play ask the professor at University of Detroit mercy. We have another set of questions here, "Dear Professor Mio and panelists. It's been nearly two and a half years since I sent in questions, shame on me for leeching off of your great entertainment, and not contributing at all. I still enjoy the weekly podcast as well as the Wit and Wisdom of the professors have no idea what you're talking about. it gets me through the days here in Montana. Below are 20 for your show to use at your leisure. Thanks again for wonderful entertainment and laughter over many years, our good friend Lara Benson from Montana sent these and thanks Lara.

Where in Montana?

You know it doesn't say I'm trying to remember I want to say that she's in Bozeman but I could be wrong. Okay,

I believe Lara is in Missoula

Missoula. Okay, okay.

All right, let's see what we can do with these. What famous literary character shot the affection of Katrina Van Tassel.

Oh, think about gray

color. Okay. Oh, my favorite story of all time by Nestle to Katrina Van Tassel Yes, I think I freaked me out my youngest son three or four years ago, because he saw that I had a picture of the Headless Horseman in my office which I do. And he goes, why do you have that up dead, and I'm like well you know I like Halloween he goes, No no no, why do you have that up. I'm like well I like that story and he was like it was the equivalent of like, why do you have a picture of the devil in your office dad like this look on his face like freaked him out. I'll get my framed picture of Ichabod Crain some other time.

The autographed one.

Yeah, exactly. In what country would one find the world's oldest surviving daily newspaper. Since, 1703

England.

Germany.

You know I heard Germany, it's pretty close. It's actually in Austria. Does anybody have an idea what its name is

the Vienna times?

The Schnitzel?

I'm gonna give partial credit for that. It's in Austrian it's in German it's the Viner Zeitung is what it says here.

Yep, the Vienna times,
1703, constant publication.

If you wanted it in German, I could have done it in German. Just saying.

I had to stop myself from saying it's an Austrian,

I would just love to know like, and here's our 98 year old newspaper boy or something like that.
Ichabod Crain.

What US city has the zip code 00909

In Maine.

East Coast Yes, Orono, Maine

No, it's a Puerto Rico,

It is Puerto Rico.

Oh, they're not Americans, come on. Geez Louise.

They get paper towels thrown at them Beth, you know they're Americans

They will be again in January.

Right, right. They, they, in San Juan, Puerto Rico they have that zip code.

And an awesome mayor.

Yes, they do. Yes. Feisty.

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 UD mercy.edu. The professors returned to answer more questions in just 70 seconds. But first,

PSA:Vote

We have some questions here from Lara Benson from Montana. What product is known by these alternate names. It's called Alo in Turkey, Vizier in Poland. Daz in the United Kingdom, and Ace in Puerto Rico. What do we call it?

Coca Cola.

No, no. It's actually a cleaning product.

Oh, Tide?

Tide. What Detroit native portrayed James MacGyver the father to the action adventure TV hero MacGyver.

Jeffe should know this.

Oh, the name of the actor. Oh,
father.

Yes, the guy that hosted Miss America.

Oh my gosh, bert parks?

parks, yes.

No, that's not what it says here, it says he is mostly known for Adam 12.

Oh,

Martin Milner.

Martin Milner is what it says.

Who is the first female musician to have scored three consecutive Platinum albums, very very big performer in the 80s.

Madonna.

Donna Summer.

Pat Benitar.

Those are all really good guesses but no initials L -R

Linda Ronstadt.

Yeah, three consecutive Oh,

oh, I was listening to her earlier today, actually.

Would that have been her Latin recordings I wonder.

That's a good question.

It must have been because most of her, you know most of her most popular pop music was in the 70s. Yeah.

Let's see here what river runs through Leone and Marseille in France.

Jim you were there.

The, let me think the Rhone?

Yeah, Rhone River. They ran out of names they just kept using all the R words. Oh, this is a wonderful piece of trivia, I feel like we've never seen this before and I'm never gonna forget it.

Which actor from the Lord of the Rings movie trilogy, was the only person who worked on these movies who had met Tolkien.

Sir Ian McKellen? It has to be something old right.

It has to be somebody old

Christopher Lee?

it was Christopher Lee, yes

Oh Christopher Lee.

And I would guess that he would have been a quote unquote young man at the time. Yeah, token I think that's fascinating.

Wasn't Christopher Lee a member of the British Secret Service like back in the 40s and 50s.

Yeah, it was 1840's, probably

Well, he played Dracula and scared the heck out of me.

Yes, he was really scary as Dracula.

Yes, the hammer films that was the real deal right there. Yeah, who is the oldest singer to debut, a song. on the Billboard Hot 100,

Tina Turner

Tom Jones

Those are good guesses

Tony Bennett.

I don't even know what to do with you all about this but I'll see what clues I can give because,

Lara has done a good job of laying this out. This is from a 2014 EP of heavy metal Christmas

cover songs. Are you ready, it debuted at number 22. The name of the song was jingle hell. And the performer was 91 years old.

No way.

Was it uh, oh man.

Was William Burroughs still alive at that point, because he did all sorts of crazy music stuff with people. But no,

It wasn't Burroughs, it says, For the record this person beat the previous record holder we've already heard the name Tony Bennett, shattered the record, that record was 85 years old, up until that

is the is the person who did this actually a singer? someone who was,

I wouldn't say so. Lara's having a little bit of fun with us, Christopher Lee, again, she says,

Oh wait, really.

I never heard of that EP,

Excuse me, I have to go on YouTube for a minute.

A Christmas album?

an EP of heavy metal Christmas cover songs with the album titled, a heavy metal Christmas 2.

Well, Jim, I guess I know what we're getting you for Christmas.

No, no,

Jim, it's chart topping.

Oh my gosh. Which member of the Gilligan's islands cast majored in chemistry. During her undergrad years

dawn wells,

it says it's dawn wells here, she majored in chemistry at Stevens College in Columbia, Missouri before transferring to the University of Washington as a theater major. Oh, well look where her career wins so you know. There you go. There is only one kind of orchid that has grown and harvested to generate food, which orchid is it. This is a good one. It's a really specific order a set a set of spice. I think you could call it a spice but technically These flowers are grown for food, specifically for the food.

You're not talking about saffron, are you?

No but that's it we had that one last week and that was

Clearly we have not watched enough Anthony Bourdain episodes

Yeah, well I don't think we're gonna get any more.

Well, it's a it's a ubiquitous additive to foodstuffs. you know that's the way we get vanilla is from orchids.

no,

really. Oh, Okay. Really. Oh, that's a stumper, that's the first really real stumper in a while

. That's a good one. Yeah.

Beautiful. What country had the first, non North America, Starbucks.

Japan.

Yeah, that was a great guess. for the record Japan starts in 1996, and as of 2019, Japan constitutes one third of all Starbucks property that is rentable. Absolutely. I think it's amazing how all these tea drinking cup countries are building Starbucks right and left. Yep, they are, what a living,

oh I'm looking more towards the center of my screen and Professor Chow here, which Canadian province has a unicorn in its coat of arms. Oh, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, one of the Maritimes yeah it's Nova Scotia, you gotta

that's where they're from, I always wondered,

we breed them they're. So,

yes, exactly. Oh wow, Lara has done her homework, this is just, Lara. This is one of our best question sets that we've had.

Absolutely.

Name four of the five ingredients on the menu, When you order a Buddy's Detrouiter.

Oh, well.

Cheese.

You're gonna have to give me the cheese Dave.

Oh mozzarella,

that's not what it says here,

provolone

Parmesan

The Detrouiter. Does it have sausage

kielbasa.

I just have to say, I mean, there's definitely cheese on it. But other than that, you haven't given me a single correct ingredient.

How about tomato sauce.

Yes, okay. Tomato sauce is on the list.

Pepperoni

pepperoni is on the list, shaved Parmesan, and buddy's special Sicilian spice blend that.

Oh, that sounds like a good pizza.

That does sound like a good pizza. Yeah, absolutely. It's buddies, chances are typically kept the Buddies because they're given like 50% off to all teachers and the month of.

It'll probably be over by the time this airs but just typically cap to him

is a really good idea Jeff because I saw our colleague Jacob Kagey in biology actually posted

"Wait, you specifically chose one of the 30 day months you're trying to kill me like 50% off I'm going there every day." This is a, this is a good one here too. As of, one September 2020, who is the oldest living member from the TV show. Mash, 86 years old.

Alan Alda

no Jamie Farr. He is ancient. Unbelievable. Unbelievable. All right, true or false, DNA can be used as a flame retardant.

Oh, DNA

as a flame retardant

true or false.

I think false.

This question is writing so many jokes I can't say,

Yeah, I know.

I'm gonna go off the chain here for a second. You don't want to hear this.

It can genetically encode you for all kinds of activities but

It's so weird it's got to be true.

I don't know why anybody would want to do this but it's definitely true you know it's a highly polar molecule, meaning that it has lots of charge in it, which can basically deflect the things that would be the kinds of atoms that would catch on fire so it's anti combustion. Now, we don't have a lot of it inside our body it's a very very small amount why you would want to harvest that and use it for that purpose is a different story.

Or you could afford to

I mean you could just get a fire extinguisher.

How about you just get some baking soda, you know. Wow. Here we go. Here's the, the be all end all of this. Thank you so much Lara, this has been really a lot of fun, because a brutal killing us. I'm going to give you a list of people they all have something in common. Let's see if we can figure out what it is. Rita Coolidge Carly Simon, Nancy Sinatra, Sheena Easton, Gladys Knight, Sheryl Crow, Tina Turner, are all female.

They're all female singers.

They've all performed duets with the same artist.

It's not that they perform but the same person. They performed the same song, the same kind of song blast from the past. You know what all these fabulous performers did. They've all performed the set piece song for a James Bond movie.

Oh, that's great.

Yeah probably Simon's is actually one of the best of all time.

Yeah. Nobody Does It Better. That's a great song,

Baby You're the Best.

That was a absolutely utterly awesome thank you Lara Benson, those were great questions.

Unfortunately, time has come to say goodbye, Beth.

Farewell.

Dan.

Goodbye.

Jim.

Saya Nora,

Dave. See you.

And Jeff,

I'm ashamed I didn't get that Bond one. I'm gonna go ski down a mountain with an avalanche chasing me as punishment.

Now these words, you can email ask the professor at ATP @udmercy.edu or visit the Ask the professor Facebook page.

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