

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 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. I guess I was late because I'm at the bottom, so I'm like looking up at everybody.

In to the Heavens. You're looking in to the Heavens.

When the traffic uptick. When did that happen? We'll start with Professor Dave Chow.

Pleasure to be here as always.

Excellent. How you doing, Dave?

Not too bad, hanging in there. I saw you driving by the other day.

Yeah, something like that. Who knows where I was going.

Our quiet little neighborhood is still staying quiet, you know, for the most part. Yes, I like it that way. Yeah, I don't have the Vinsettta garage parking in front of my house anymore.

Right, they've kind of cooled off a little bit. So, that's a positive from the pandemic.

Yep. So, so far so good,

Good, good. Professor Beth Oljar's here with us today.

Hellooo!

So many ways we could take that

It reminded me that it was from Mrs. Doubtfire which is true but I was thinking about Susie in Mrs Maizel. Once in a hotel room when they get a little surprise in the bathroom.

And I was going down the, that was the, the sound that Jerry Seinfeld made on his show because he thought his girlfriend's belly button had its own personality and so he made it like talk like that. And then he got into a lot of trouble for doing that.

With his girlfriend, I'm guessing,

with the girlfriend. Yes, exactly.

Well that probably was not a relationship that was destined to last long.

Right. If I remember the episode correctly, Beth. He basically was given an ultimatum by the girlfriend either stop doing the voice or, you know, we're done. And he went into the park for a classic almost 80s era montage where you remembered all the great times he had had with the voice, and not too surprisingly chose the voice over the girlfriend.

That's sad, sad,

So, Beth, you're at the end of week five here. How does that feel?

Pretty good, I guess. Of course, except for all of the monster grading is still, you know, something I get to anticipate and I still have to look at all of the chats on my recorded sessions so I can track participation.

Good point. Very good point.

Well, I was having a hard time doing it as the class was going on, and then I like, but the chat thing is is part of the recording so I can just pull it down and look and see So, whoo!

Yeah. Hooray for digital record keeping. Absolutely.

Exactly.

Professor Mara Livezey is here with us today.

Helloo!

It's gonna be the new thing.

Is it gonna be our new sign in now.

Yes.

Mara, you know I feel remiss on multiple levels so forgive me for like double dipping here. As chair of the department where you reside. How is your drugs class going.

Ah, "How Drugs Work" is going fabulously, we have just finished our first week of actual drugs. This week was cannabis week.

Oh,

and we started, I mean it's the timing is off since it's the first time I've taught this, but we just did this like awesome group work case study where we're learning about the effects of cannabis and society, and it was great.

Do you have any live demonstrations?

You know, if it were an in person class, it would be different than if it were taught remotely.

I just like to point out that when we were still recording live, we had mentioned that Mara was going to be teaching this. This is our, many different names for our core course, our service course, Chem 1030.

Oh okay that's just I was gonna ask.

Yeah.

Yeah. So we were talking and joking on this very show that the title of Mara's course was going to be "Let's Do Drugs" because I think that that would have caught a lot of attention, but - the fact that the registrars listen to this podcast.

Oh no!

I was sent an email from the provost, to my inbox, soon after listening.

Yeah, Let's Not Do Drugs.

Wait a minute, do we need to send them like a fake show or something like that?

No, the point being emphasized was that the title of the course does appear on transcripts and I was like okay it gives me a little gap.

Yeah. Well, Mara, Have you have you shown them Reefer Madness and had a deep philosophical discussion of it yet.

No, but to be considered.

Is it like the Cheech and Chong show or something like that?

Maybe

I am about to talk about the drug war in, well, paternalism and the war on drugs which has become, is just a proxy for the race war. Right, yeah, reefer madness makes that pretty clear.

Absolutely. Professor Jim Tubbs is here. I can't believe what I'm seeing, this is a different background, It is I moved to the dining room. Good afternoon.

With his lovely china in his china cabinet.

Yeah. The only thing is, Jim You don't look as comfortable at your chair though.

I'm not. I'm sitting in a straight chair.

Oh well, we'll try to talk really fast and get the show over.

Or is there a way to move that wingback chair there something like that I mean,

I don't think there's space really, it would recline into the china cupboard.

So, Jim What are your plans for this first weekend of fall that feels like summer, versus what you did last weekend the last weekend of summer that felt like fall.

Hmm. Well, okay, this weekend on Saturday afternoon I'm going to a friend's cottage up on like Maclain Lake, which is up near Silver Lake on. And what's great about this cottage, It's a small cottage but it's got a great deck that sits elevated that fits out looking over the lake so that'll be a nice thing to do. Um last last weekend, it was kind of chilly, for that but this weekend will be good.

Exactly. But we get another weekend to say goodbye to summer I think,
yeah,

I'll tell you what folks this is a program where you can send us questions regarding anything, the seasons, for instance, you stop the panel you win a prize and if you don't stop with the panel you win a prize. You can send the questions to us in a number of ways you can email us at ATP at UD mercy dot edu, find us on Facebook and Instagram or listen on your favorite smart speaker by asking it to play, ask the professor at the University of Detroit mercy. We have some questions that were sent from a student at University of Detroit Mercy, Vishnu Gun Salah. "Dear professors, here's a list of 10 questions around the subject of tennis". He says passing is eight out of 10, that's kind of brutal if you don't mind me saying. he says good luck. I had him in class last year and he's a delightful student. Let's see what Vishnu put together for us here. In what year did Roger Federer win his first Grand Slam event?

97?

No, it's after 2000 actually

2004.

I'm giving it to you 2003, and he's certainly well decorated as one of the winningest players of all time. But it was a fairly early 2000 start for him.

Has he beat Pete Sampras yet.

Good question. I actually don't know the answer to that. Which Grand Slam has Rafael Nadal won more than 10 times?

The French Open, wasn't it?

the French Open, yes. He likes that clay court.

Yeah. Now I don't have my tennis very good. I watch it when it's the big time events, I can tell you that, but what is the ground in the French Open gym

clay.

Oh it is clay.

Uh, red going stuff.

Very fast surface.

Got it.

2

Wimbeldon is grass and then the Australian and the US opens are

Asphalt.

Exactly

Which gave the French Open a real challenge.

Exactly. How old was Serena Williams when she won her first Grand Slam event.

She was young, wasn't she?

16 or something

18, I think.

Between Jim and Mara, of course, we have it. It's 17 years old. She was 17

Okay,

Junior Achievement

Yep, Junior Achievement. What is the score called when it becomes 40-40 in a game.

Deuce?

Deuce. About which famous women's tennis player was the movie "battle of the sexes" made?

Billy Jean King.

Mmm-hmm.

Who played Bobby Riggs in it anyway.

You know it doesn't say here. I'm going up over all the other questions. Vishnu, by the way, has done an excellent job, citing with internet sources every question. so we can be fairly, you know, solid on these things but it doesn't say anything about the movie, Dave.

I remember that battle.

Yeah.

Dave, I think Steve Carell would have just had been perfect for the role. Y

Yeah.

Speaking by the way of actors, which actor portrayed John McEnroe in the movie Borg vs McEnroe.

Um, here are your clues.

Young man, I would say is no older than his 30s as of the present day, kind of, known for being a little bit all over the map in his personal life a little bit, a little bit odd, a little bit eccentric. Starred in Michael Bay's Transformers movies.

Shia Labeouf?

Yes. Shia Labeouf.

The young Indiana Jones. Oh.

That movie was a letdown.

But Holes. Holes was good.

It was. But that was a good story. Yeah.

He was good and Disturbia, which you would like

Yeah

Yeah. I think he's looking at he's looking for something more disturbing to star in because it matches his personality better or something like that. I can't let, just for the sake of argument here, a mention of John McEnroe go by without mentioning there is a very very encapsulated I think they wanted to go longer but it really didn't series, I want to say it's on Netflix. "Never Have I Ever" is what it's called, and it's a teen girls sort of being raised in the United States, having Indian American parents, that's all you need to know, and the entire series is narrated by John McEnroe for no reason whatsoever. And he literally, as they transition from scene to scene, yells the transitions like "and then"

It's very hilarious. Who is the only black man who's ever won a Grand Slam?

Arthur Ashe.

Yes, Arthur Ashe, was his name,

God rest his soul.

Mm hmm. Who was the first black woman who won a Grand Slam event

Althea Gibson

Althea Gibson. You know, I didn't know. Back in the day, Professor Livezey, if anything had sports relation to it, it just basically looked like kryptonite, and all the professors would slowly back away, but this is pretty solid, you've already achieved the eight out of 10 passing so the rest is gravy

Well, we haven't gotten questions about gymnastics.

No, no

quiet, quiet

Figure skating.

I'm waiting for the ballet questions for you Mara.

Yeah, where's the ballet questions.

I think that you may already know this one because, but Novak Djokovic was disqualified from the 2020 US Open after he did something

Accidentally hitting a line ref with his ball.

Yes, right. that's exactly right. Yeah.

Yeah. That was so sad, because it was unintentional, so how do you -

The rules say, whether it's unintentional or not, you're just out if your ball hits the --

That was rough.

I heard a wonderful analogy recently that, you know, in the end, the head umpire at a baseball game, essentially has absolute power. You know, if someone mouths off even once it's like you're out. You know, i mean it's unquestionable as an analogy, and I won't go any deeper as to where that analogy came up from

Refs can do that in soccer too. I mean if you got a red card You're out.

That's it , last one here from Vishnu, these have been great. who's the first male tennis player, born after 1990, who has won a Grand Slam event. I'm not familiar with the name,

A young-in.

Clearly.

initials or D and T.

Dan Tana.

It says here, his name is Dominic thiem, Dominic thiem, born after 1990,
which Grand Slam did he win.

You know, it also doesn't say that so it could have just been one of the 2020 or 2019 ones. So -
It could have been the Clawson Grand Slam.

Oh yeah, cuz that's a big event. Oh man, well we did pretty good I'd say I mean I I'm not taking part in
the we, I suppose, but it's nine out of 10, that's pretty solid for the game of tennis okay

Those were good questions.

Yeah, sports questions. that's good. for all of you out there in listener land I don't want to constrain you
if you go nuts with the random button on Wikipedi but getting 10 questions about one subject is always
nice and bite size for the panel.

ocean liners. Questions about ocean liners.

I did see somebody on Facebook say they're gonna send a Beatles question.

You're listening to a special edition of Ask The Professor, in which the five professors participating in
this recording session, we're 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,

(Ask The Professor flashback)

Okay. Hello professors, My name is Abby McDowell, and I'm a student at Detroit mercy, and here's a list
of 10 questions about landmarks in the great country of China. Her also passing grade is eight out of 10, I
don't know what these students are doing to us here.

Man, What are you guys doing to them. I never had standards that were like that in my class, I had
bribes, okay. I mean you know I took PayPal and Venmo,

Here's a, here's a fairly predictable place to start. How long in miles is the Great Wall of China.

342.

That's a little low

3200.

That's a little low.

5000.

That's a little low.

What!

10,000

Getting closer but still low

15,000.

I mean, I feel like we bounce around the asymptote as mathematicians say. It's 13,170 miles.

Wow.

Yeah.

Wait a minute, the country isn't that -

Well, it wiggles around, you know, the border

Yeah, I've stood on top of it before when my dad took us, but I'm like going? Okay,

That's a lot of slave labor.

I'm pretty sure that you're all going to gravitate to the correct response quickly on this one, because it's a classic from my youth, that's been essentially debunked. Can you see the Great Wall of China, when you're in the International Space Station?

yeah you can't. You can't see it.

I wish,

Yeah, that would be cool, but sorry. Okay. Does everybody know The Terracotta Army of the sheen Ani

Yes.

They basically unearthed a gigantic burial place and the A terracotta version of the soldiers of that army for that ruler were found in multiple chambers around to the tune of how many terracotta soldiers found on that site?

Wasn't it 10,000.

You know you're really close to, I mean we could go back and forth, it says here it's 8000, but it also a lot.

well there's also another mound nearby that they have yet to even dive into.

19:21

wow. sighs

Were they life size?

yeah their life size, that also chariots and horses life size, and we went there, it was like, it's like walking into the silver dome. The scientists who built that thing were amazing. Wow. Wow. It was pretty cool completely.

It completely destroyed our chance of getting number four right because we got it right. it's like what is the name of the city were close to where the Terracotta Army was found. it says Shian. Yeah. And so, we will move on from there.

And by the way, they do have a lovely little tourist trap there too.

Is it the Shian Mystery Spot?

No, no, They actually give you like they'll give you like a pound of clay, you can actually make your own little figurine. Oh, and once you make it you can buy it.

Your own little terracotta soldier.

Aha.

Cool.

Oh, it's such a tourist tramp.

Can you make up a weapon, that'd be the

No. I wish. No, but every place we went to on that tour was an absolute tourist trip. It was fun, it was neat.

So also in China, we can find the Forbidden City, did you go to the Forbidden City, Dave?

Yes,

The doors that lead to the Forbidden City are massive, absolutely massive. How many nails are in the doors to the gates of the Forbidden City.

Oh, they use pegs, so they didn't use nails.

Well, it says nails, but I think that's what they mean.

Okay.

20,000

You know, it's not a very very very large number it's just a regular large number this time.

200.

It says here 81, but I can't blame Beth, because we were just doing -

Yeah, We were just doing big numbers

Yeah, I'm like regular numbers? What is it like regular, unleaded, premium? What's what's large.

What year was the Forbidden City completed. I am embarrassed by the fact that I'm a product of even Catholic but also Western history, which of course completely glosses over most Eastern history, and it would be nice to even have a decade to start with much less a century,

It was 1350.

I mean you you're closer than you're you're farther, Jim, it's 1420, was, it could have been started that year for all we know but it took till 1420.

And the thing that's amazing is like it's still make, it's still all there right the construction of like, why is it the thing falling apart.

Mm hmm.

Well, it's the culture that's thousands of years old than anything in the West,

yeah I mean it's like, my garage was built in the 50s, and is turning into rubble already, you know. I mean, come on.

Yeah.

The 1950s.

Yeah.

How many emperors lived in the Forbidden City all together.

30

timeshare or own?

I'm giving it to Mara. it's 24, everybody's within the error bars here, you know. I mean, that's that's good. It's good. I would mark it wrong on an exam; but for today, it's high standards

It would get no credit in my class.

Um, I think that folks will remember this from the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics.

Okay.

What was the nickname of the stadium that hosted the opening and closing and track and field ceremony?

The bird's nest, or The Nest. Yeah,

It's a beautiful piece of architecture is already falling apart 12 years later.

Aren't all Olympic venues like that.

Yeah, it's really utterly terrifying and humbling and maddening to see. There's actually a website you can go to places where the Olympics have taken place with recent photos and everything gets abandoned.

You see I - Have you guys heard of that movement to make Greece the permanent Olympic venue? something like that. I did hear that, yeah,

yeah because Greece was kind of like in financial straits so why don't we just give them the Olympics, year after year after year.

And the idea of stewardship of the facilities would be would be smart, I think, yeah,

Not to mention, the tradition. Right, yeah.

And then, not to mention you'll save all this political like hey who can we pay off in order to get the next city or whatever so prevents that.

I was also thinking about the news stories that were coming out at the end of the 20 teens where I believe it was Middle Eastern country hosting the World Cup, and how they can count on multiple hands the number of people who passed away building the World Cup Stadium, it's like, is this the kind of toll that you want.

What's the name of the famous dam that is on the Yangtze River.

Three Rivers Dam.

Three gorges.

Yeah, Three Rivers is in Pittsburgh. Yeah, Jason will get you on that one Jim.

Yes, he will.

Allegheny, Ohh. Ooops.

Monongahela

Ohio.

Hey, nothing like going to that stadium and being able to hit a home run that lands in the drink, that's always fun.

Yeah. And I think that most everybody on today's panel is going to be able to do this one, too. In what famous applause I did protest and subsequent massacre -.

Tiananmen Square.

Yeah, 1989 1989,

That was surreal. Walking on that thing

Oh so yeah, tell us about Tiananmen, Dave

if it was just big, huge plots of concrete. It was just a massive, you know it's like the Pontiac Silverdome parking lot times 100.

Wow.

Yeah. No, it's just meant for marches and people were all over the place flying kites. people were all over the place. And we had, they gave us an option we could have a tour of Mao Tse Tong's tomb or whatever, too. I'm like, No we'll pass. So, it was, it was interesting, lots of tourists.

Well, you'll remember as we go into our final minutes here that we've transitioned away from the massive list of ATP favorites into the new version written by Frank Burroughs and family, and it's a different take, you know on popular questions that are pretty well manicured here I think you'll enjoy today's. Would you rather have a very famous top 10 pop song that has your name in the title. So, something you might have to live with for the rest of your life, or a drink named after you.

A drink.

Drink. That's infamy.

You know, all I can think about are the non theoreticals on the other side. I believe I've mentioned before, because we'd love to brag that Keegan Michael Key, a very famous actor and comedian attended Detroit Mercy so many years ago and his substitute teacher sketch and the pronunciation of the names in the sketch.

yeah,

I had a student about six years ago, his name was Blake, And just one day, you know randomly I'm like "Blake, do people ever call you Balockay?". And he stared off in to space. "I haven't been called Blake in two years."

Wow,

He's like, "I am Balockay to almost everybody."

Wow

That and - I had, this is my Lord of the Rings crossover. I had a student whose last name was Smiegell. In the middle of the Lord of the rings movies.

Nick Smiegel?

well thwe had a few of them actually, Beth, so you memory serves you well. And I had a young chap, whose first name was Gandolfo during The Lord of The Rings movies. He was into it, he's like riding the high, you know what I mean?

Hiis parents read the books.

Yeah. I mean there's a difference between being named after like the main character wizard and then being named after the troll, you know, that you know ruins everything for everybody.

Well, I like what Jeffe Boats said, "Mommy, why is my name jaws three.

I don't have to choose between the drink and the pop song because I already have a pop song named after me,

you do you do,

yes with what

Kiss

Peter Chris

Yeah,it's actually a pretty song

It is. It's their best-selling song ever.

It's better than "Beth buddy in the Sky with Diamonds"

But I like that, too.

Well folks, I'm afraid we have exhausted all the time we have for today so it's time for the panelists to say goodbye, Jim.

Good bye.

Mara.

Good Bye.

Beth.

Good bye.

Dave

See ya.

And Now these words,

You can email ask the professor at ATP at UD mercy.edu or visit the Ask the professor Facebook page.

As the professor is produced and directed by Michael Jayson and Brian Maisonville, and our executive producer is Professor Jason Roche. Till next week I'm your host Matt Mio.