

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 on which you match with university professors that session of questions and answers. I'm your host Matt Mio and let me introduce to you our panel for today. To my left, but who knows what direction he is on your screen, it's Professor Jim Tubbs. Hello. Hello. How's it going, Jim, you're back in the bucolic splendor of your armchair. That's right. Yes, the wing chair in the living room yes that's where I am relaxing right now, we had a great time catching up with your dish cabinet last week, your hutch or whatever it is, I'm not sure.

Yeah, but that's where I teach from so I thought it would be nice to relax while I'm recording here, and Yeah, that's cool that's cool how is the last week for you, Jim.

Actually, it went pretty well. Pretty well didn't get that much done but you know what I had to do did what I needed to do.

All right, we'll take it. to my right, it's Professor Beth Oljar.

Hey, good to be here.

Hey, how was last week for you, Beth?

Pretty good I'm not as far ahead in terms of preparing PowerPoints as I would like. I'm just like a step ahead barely of the students which is not such a big deal but will become a big deal with midterms when we've got all the grading to do so. Trying to figure out how to work around that somehow.

kind of stiring that down right, because this is the end of week six so you could argue that next week is crossing ove, so pretty crazy. Pretty crazy. Actually, I have a feeling, Beth that this next month is either going to go very fast or very slow. A lot of academics and non academics don't really understand that October is the busiest month of the academic year. presentations to give at least back in the old way of thinking. And then, of course, no break, plus midterm is enough to make anybody's hair turn white.

frankly, when I hear you say your lecture ahead or whatever, you're way beyond where I am right now, I can tell you that. Professor Dave Chow was here with us today.

Pleasure to be here as always.

Excellent. So your cover photo which you entertain us with when you log in every week was Boy George and Mr. T in a chokehold there. that was pretty interesting.

Yeah, I have a variety of odd photos of celebrities. odd celebrity gatherings that's all so,
I think that's cool.

Yeah, so that's another odd hobby that I just don't need to be paying for, but I can at least search online and do it on the cheap so

Right. We look forward to you with a still from that commercial from the 90s next week where Donald Trump is talking to grimace of McDonald's.

No no no no no no no. I say every week that we should follow Jim's tradition and all of us should go to a different room in the house.

Right, right.

What do you think we know just moving around at least a little bit.

Oh yeah, different backgrounds, they really are.

I'll just turn my chair around and you'll think it's a different room.

hey at least you could rotate your chair Dan I don't want to hear it.

you are, you're a bit wedged. Just a bit.

So Professor Stephen Manning is here with us today.

Good afternoon.

We have this beautiful painting or print above you.

Your house is full of bad paintings.

the most likely scenario for you getting rid of all that was probably late last Tuesday night.

Yes, and since that incident to since that event.

Yes, exactly. Now, I look forward. At some point, at a faculty department meeting between now and who knows when to be able to say man, do you ever shut up. I just can't wait. Probably gonna be to Benvenuto, the more than I think about it.

I love the T shirts have come out since.

Or calling your dean a clown. That would be about it

How about just go all the way to the president with that one. See how that goes.

And he was being polite.

I think he was.

Yeah, he was undoubtedly complimenting on his ability to get into small cars.

It's a Shriner compliment right.

Those are the dulcet tones of Professor Jeffe Boats.

Howdy.

How's it going Jeffe?

I am awash in inverse trig functions. Which is more pleasant than it sounds.

Yeah, no that's that's pretty awesome what,

it's got to be more pleasant than it sounds.

It sounds bad

if you've seen one arcsin, you've seen them all.

Yeah, it was definitely having a little trig flashback there, but it's not all bad. It's not all bad. I think Jeffe I could draw unit circle. If you like pinned me to the wall. I think I could do it.

Oh, there's an old story about Arcimedes or no it was DaVinci. DaVinci could take a piece of chalk and draw freehand a 20 foot circle, and it would be absolutely perfect to any measurement, you could draw on the sidewalk or the pavement or whatever they had in his day, the dirt

Wow,

he was gifted that's for sure.

I always tell that story when I have to apologize to my class for not being able to tell that what I just drew was a circle.

He was also left handed, just saying,

yeah.

positives

He must have got his chalk at the leftorium, that's the secret.

No doubt.

Professor Heather Hill is here with us today.

Hello.

You're looking a little nonplussed Heather. Everything Okay?

I'm fine.

It's the whistlepigs.

I was recalling that on Tuesday night when I woke up on Wednesday morning I realized that I can dream about Donald Trump being a member of one of my courses. Oh, and was soon raising a ruckus.

With a long necktie.

Yeah.

Another student was trying to present ,and it's just it was crazy.

That was polite.

Professor Dan Maggio is here with us today.

Hi Matt. And I have a question. Do you have any students that come to class like in a suit and tie?

I've had a

I did at one time.

From time to time.

Mm-hmm.

But there are some events or they have

Outside of the pledging stuff which can get a little crazy. I was just curious. I remember back in the day that we used to have a student or two that always dressed for success and the occasion, so.

Or a very of Evangelical type that just dresses up for school and church, you know, the same way.

Now they show up in flannel pants.

I will always be forever thankful, they do show up in pants. Yeah bare minimum.

Yeah. Very good point. Well mine won't turn on their cameras at home, so I assume that that's because they're not wearing pants.

Last, but certainly not least - there is a tail, there's a back, but there's also Professor Mara Livezey.

Yes, hello.

The tail just comes through the frame.

It's Jupiter finding her way to the warm nook in my lap.

Ah ha

I'm telling you that cat knows our schedule better than we do. You know, I mean,

She does.

Well and now you can get pets instead of, you know, Mara having to teach and ignore her.

That's right.

Oh, she comes on my lap during class too.

Ah,

that doesn't stop her.

I'll tell you what folks, this is a program you could send us questions regarding anything. If you stump the professors 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 surrendering your rights and asking it to play Ask the professor at University of Detroit Mercy. We've got a set of questions here from one of our longtime question senders. "Dear Matt and professors, we've sent in a few lists of ATP favorites, and are overjoyed that it's come in handy for your show, but we haven't forgotten our duty in coming up with questions either. We've been stockpiling as of late and following are 20 questions on all manner of topics. we hope they meet with your approval and proved entertaining. Ordinarily i'd sign off with warmest greetings from Valencia California, but seeing is how it's been consistently in the triple digits, with smoke and ash covered skies, I'll forego that greeting and just wish you generic wishes. Frank Burroughs. Yes, thank you

Generic. Hmm.

That's my new email signature - generic wishes.

I can't let it slide without, as always, one of my favorite Simpsons quotes. He's like, "would you have said that you were a well wisher", and the guy strokes his chin he goes "well, I wasn't here to wish you any specific harm. So -

Ha! generic.

Let's get into our generic questions here.

Frank needs to copyright that, actually.

Wow, triple digits and smoking ash just enough, by the way, matter to trap in all the heat.

Yeah,

It's the brutal transition to throughout. This is a wonderful a piece of trivia. I've never heard it before. Remember that Charles Schultz drew peanuts for basically almost exactly 50 years. How many individual strips did he do by the end; where he passed right after he retired if you remember correctly,

I think it's like 15 or 17,000.

I'll have to give it to you Dave.

Was it daily or weekly?

I mean,

daily including Sundays.

It says here, 17,897 so it's just short of 20,000

Wow. He was a machine.

Absolutely. What was the name of the first battleship that was built on the west coast of the United States, Don't think too hard.

California.

Yeah, it was the USS California.

I was, I was thinking like a Ronald Reagan or something like that. Okay,

I mean I know there's a really big base in San Diego, do they build ships there or is there another place on the west coast.

I don't, I don't remember that well there's a ship repair place in San Diego, so there may be a shipyard for building too.

In Norse mythology, The sun does not bring light to Valhalla. these objects do. what brings light to Valhalla?

magic mushrooms?

Golden goblets.

No, they are objects of the warrior. How's that for a hint.

An axe?

Swords?

Swords. Make sure you don't leave home without it, otherwise you'll be in the dark,

Gee, I'll have to dig mine out from under the bed.

I thought you had yours dangling over the bed Jim.

No, I took it down last week.

You don't wanna do that. If you had an earthquake, for example, and it fell off the wall, it could impale you,

It could

live life on the edge

which edge? Of the sword?

In the movie The Blues Brothers. Jake and Elwood called the head nun at the orphanage, where they grew up what?

Penguin.

The penguin. Yeah.

Ah,

Don't anger the penguin,

Not the Danny DeVito penguin I hope.

No. What cause did Woodrow Wilson champion that won him the Nobel Prize,

the League of Nations,

the League of Nations. Yes, absolutely.

He failed to get it passed the Senate in the US but he won the Nobel Prize. Nevertheless,

That's right.

good for him.

What was the year when Novocaine was first used in dentistry? This is actually, I'm not quite sure how to frame this one for you because it's probably not what you're thinking right now so throw away your first guess and go with your second guess.

1896

My first guess was really old, so I'm gonna guess really recent so

I was thinking like 1930

1972

is Novocaine the product of a natural plant or does it have to be manufactured.

I think it was, it's coinciding with mass synthesis and that's actually why I'm giving it to Heather, because it was 1901.

Oh,

I just would have thought it to be more recent.

I would too.

FYI, a little side note here. Before that, Let's remember the American Civil War was the first time we did antiseptic anything.

Mmm-hmm

So we were probably into ether, chloroform or just straight up cocaine.

Into? into cocaine?

Opium.

I mean, for the record, novocaine is a structure that is only a few atoms away from cocaine; so I mean, it does what it's supposed to do.

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. The professors return to answer more questions in less than 60 seconds. But first -

(ASK THE PROFESSOR Flashback)

We've got questions from Frank Burroughs from Valencia California. What famous invention did Mary Anderson make for the automotive industry?

Windshield wipers

Yeah, it was windshield wipers.

Nice.

Was that a guess? Wow.

She's an automotive technician on the side.

Of course it was a guess. Did you see her reaction?

Quiet your box over there, Dr. Manning.

You know, it says it's 1903, so I mean that is just about as original to a car as a steering wheel as far as I'm concerned, that's the

in what city is this fictional building- the Osgood R Flimm Building.

Oh, wkrp.

That's right. So technically that's

Cincinnati.

That's such a great show.

Okay. What kind of toy is a beatnik bandit

It's definitely got some hippie thing to it,

Uh-huh.

a ukulele

I can tell you that all three of my sons have played with these toys and we have -

whatever it is, I'm sure you look stupid doing it, but the cool thing is you don't act like you look stupid while you're doing it.

A beatnik bandit? What like a ukulele or some kind of musical instrument?

No.

tiny little VW Matchbox car.

That's exactly what it is. it's a Hot Wheels car,

Really?

Wow. Heather, you're buying us lottery tickets.

There are a lot of nicknames for the Hot Wheels cars that I'm guessing that they've gone through over the years because not anything like specifically like racist or anything, but I mean beatnik bandit is kind of, kind of pushing it, but it is a VW

I've never heard that before.

What famous actor had his screen test evaluation read "can't act, slightly balding, also dances.

Fred Astaire

yes Fred Astaire

Heather is killing it today.

Heather, I want to take a break, and I'm just going to watch you for the rest of the show.

Pretty incredible. What retail chain once had Connie Stevens, Suzanne Somers and John Madden as their spokespeople?

Ace.

Do you have a list of these Heather?

Oh my gosh.

Wow. Leave some for the rest of us.

Sorry.

No, go.

I don't know any of these.

That's why she's my BFF.

All right, let's see, now now it's a test Heather, we've got our baseline. Now it's test. The world's oldest national broadcasting organization started in 1922. It's about to celebrate its 100th anniversary in a couple of years. What is it?

the BBC,

The BBC.

Did Heather take a break or something?

No. She said it at the same time.

Oh,

Yeah, she looked at the side.

I just assumed it was American, which was pretty stupid.

No. That's not stupid.

The top two best selling books of all time. I believe most folks here know that number one is the Bible.

The Bible,

But what's number two?

Gone With The Wind?

it's not. it's not a novel

the Guinness Book.

It's not Guinness, although that's a good guess.

Windows for Dummies.

The OED?

Not a dictionary, it's not a reference book.

We know what our president would say it is.

The Art of The Deal.

Yes.

Mao's Little Red Book.

No.

Oh, I guess the Bhagavad Gita.

No, but that I'd say that's a pretty good guess actually,

the Quran?

Let me just say this as our clue. It's not the Quran. I'm always disturbed, even though you can't even really go to bookstores anymore these days, but I used to be deeply disturbed going to Borders and seeing the science and nature section, have it's like two or three shelves. And then like the Self Help section or crystals or things like that be like quadruple.

Yes.

Especially when the crystals are in the philosophy section.

Yes, Well, Matt, the ocean liner books didn't even have one full shelf.

I know.

How about The Power of Positive Thinking?

No,

What, like Dr Spock,

like chicken soup or something,

Chicken Soup for the soul.

Right.

It says here it's The complete prophecies of Nostradamus is the second

You're kidding.

Well, really, that kind of like the Bible.

At least revelation.

Yeah, exactly. Exactly. Hey what's uniquely different about the Starbucks that's at CIA headquarters.

They don't sell coffee.

They only sell secrets.

The coffee is free.

No, it has something to do with the coffee, but it looks like they actually

You can't bring your own containers in, that's for sure.

It's laced with caffeine - or cocaine.

They have funny names that reflect weird CIA things

yeah basically they're, they're not allowed to write names on the cups

Oh, like Agent X

But But I like Mara's take better, like they should just have a bunch of goofy names that they gave what like you clone your blue tie or that threw me I'm such a country bumpkin The first time I went to a Starbucks and I asked you know for an order and they said, Can I have a name for the coffee. And I was like, caffeina, what would you name a coffee

waterboarding

and other fun CIA tips and tricks.

I like Jeff's take by the way also it's like well they definitely don't sell secrets there at least usually they don't.

they rent them

only once a month.

after looking at the data post World War II, Many things had been rationed. How many pairs of shoes had been rationed per citizen, after the war was won?

after the war,

After the war. Looking back over World War II, How many shoe pairs of shoes were rationed per citizen in the United States.

Oh in the US. Okay.

Two.

I'd say four.

It was three. If Kendra were here, she would have said three. shoes for six that that's kind of, that's a big deal if you think about it, that's kind of a thing.

We can get people to cut down on their carbon output we might be a little better shape in a few years, kicker was rationed to during World War Two. Yes, and in Great Britain for a long time after. Absolutely. Last year, as always, Frank and family it's just awesome, awesome. Yeah, great question.

22:55

I think I've heard this one before but maybe it's been long enough that we'll be able to make it entertaining, the largest employer of any type in the state of Michigan. Do you know what it is

23:09

a state of itself, it's not

a good guess and so is automotive but they're both incorrect, their health care, the state should the state of Michigan where, what about University of Michigan.

I was gonna say it could be related to healthcare at the University of Michigan has the most influence. But I think it's probably because of their, at least in part, a part of their hospital network that is.

Okay, let's take a look at ATP favorites. Remember, we are operating in a new world from the Burroughs family, Warmest wishes from Frank and family. This is- interesting questions that have never been considered before. Let's see. I believe last week we did something like would you rather have your name in the title of a top 10 song, or have a alcoholic beverage named after yourself.

You see, I get both.

Or you could do both. That's right. Okay.

All right, if you could trade places with anybody at the table for a day, so this is I think everybody here, who would it be and why.

What table,

should we answer this?

at this table here.

Oh, A little personal.

Yeah.

I have an easy answer. I have an easy answer here, I'm gonna say I'm gonna trade places with Stephen so I can be retired.

I was gonna say Mara or Beth because I would know what it would like to not be allergic to cats, that would actually be kind of nice.

There you go.

Oh, I think Heather and enjoy her sabbatical with her, or as her.

I don't know, Jim, I trade places with you. You've got a comfier chair than I do.

Alright

And nicer dishes.

I think I might pick Dave, because I'm able to go to Canada and then I think I'd stay there.

Yeah.

I would like to be able to draw that well.

yeah, creative side.

Oh, Canada,

I would pick Jim. That would be a good choice I then I know what it was like to believe in God, that would be. I would like to know what that's like. Sure, I could, I could drag places with Matt for that, that would actually be interesting to wait. I don't know, you could have three kids.

But Jim also has the retired thing going on so I think it's a, you know, two versus one thing.

Yeah I know Stephen, retired. Yeah.

I can't pick myself though right.

I guess I'd pick Jim for the same retirement reasons,

but he's still teaching the retirement without the teacher. Yeah.

He was asking me questions about retirement before he retired.

Plan ahead, smart,

you, you were my guinea pig Jim

Not whistlepig,

The only other variation I think I might say would be Stephen because I'd love to explore the next four weeks from the perspective of Political Science knowing all the political science.

that you would be interesting

And he would know what it was like to not be allergic to cats, if he were.

Yes.

Heather, Dan: have we heard from you on this.

I said, Dave. we both said Dave. Yeah.

Yeah. I don't think I've ever been quite this popular and it's really the exact opposite of high school.

What goes around comes around, let me tell you, things change Stephen. It's a whole new world. Yeah, being in high school is even more god awful now.

Yeah, well, I'm afraid so.

I'm afraid also it's time for us to say goodbye Mara.

See you later.

Dan. Goodbye.

Heather.

Goodbye.

Jeffe

See you later.

Stephen

Bye.

Dave.

See ya.

Beth

Bye.

And Jim

Arivederci.

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 and the Department of Communication Studies in the College of Liberal Arts and Education at the University of Detroit Mercy's McNichols campus, were 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.