

ATP 2120

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 ringing another session of Ask The professor the show in which you match wits, with the University of Detroit Mercy professors and an unrehearsed session of questions and answers. I'm your host Matt Mio and let me introduce to you our panel for today, all the way at the top right of my screen where he belongs. It's Professor Jim Tubbs.

Now why do I belong at the top right of your screen,

I don't know, I just thought it sounded cool.

Okay, well I'm, I'm fairly comfortable up here in my box.

So how is 2021 treating you, Jim?

Ah, ask later in the year.

We'll do. It's been an interesting couple of weeks here, we are when just a few days before our regular winter classes start, and we've been paying attention to all sorts of things in the news and what have you. Any comments Jim.

No, I think I'll leave it at that. I'm just hoping the news gets better.

Yes, that would be nice that would definitely be nice, continuing around the horn here, Professor Stephanie Conant is here from the Department of Biology.

Hello. It's nice to be back. It's been a long time.

Yeah, I love that background the tardigrade is awesome.

If you don't know about tardigrades, you should. I know this way, this way, I'm looking for this picture with smaller tardigrades but, yeah. Love your local water bear, I don't know.

That's right. That's right, it's everybody's duty. Um, Professor Dave Chow is here. Of course, I grabbed him right when he's taking a sip.

Of course,

That's the way it goes. How's it going in 21 Dave,

um, could be worse could be better, no complaints, not really.

Okay, yeah, at least we're not living on the outskirts of Lansing right about now, you know, getting overrun so

Yeah, that's always good. We haven't to the point where we're using particleboard to block the entrances to our basements quite yet.

Not yet. Not yet. so besides I also know a good place to get Cyclone fencing right around the block from you so I mean,

that's right. Just in case, case. Stephanie has taken the water bear out into space.

Now it's just a little one. Yep, and space, very close to prove that it can survive there. Okay, yeah.

That, of course, being the dulcet tones of Professor Beth old jar.

Hello.

What's shakin Beth.

Not a whole lot.

We stumped her already,

Not enough. I can't even imagine, Professor Oljar, what your classes will be like going forward. so much fodder. so many things to talk about.

I did get an email from a student in philosophy of law, who said that she really wished she had our class to talk to after -

Of course

I was at the doctor when a lot of this was going down, so I literally had been getting, you know, dribs and drabs of information over the following days, I didn't see everything that happened, as it happened so

yeah we were in a giant college wide faculty meeting and I couldn't help myself I just started dropping science in the chat. I'm like, suddenly I feel like this meeting shouldn't be happening. Is anybody else seeing what I'm seeing? okay two by fours through the windows, I'm out. bye. Unbelievable.

Yeah.

Professor Mara Livezey is here with us, and of course Jupiter accompanies her today.

Yes, hello. In that same faculty meeting when I was presenting, you know I had another tab open on my computer just like refreshing. Looking for updates.

Unbelievable. It's, it's something weird by the way we couldn't escape it and I know I'm gonna get in trouble if this gets back to our fair dean, but apparently there's a first staff meeting of the year, scheduled for the very meat of inauguration day. And I said, "Jane you should just tell Katie that you're going to be sick on that day or something.

Is it noon, is that right?

I think so, yeah,

I have an online class at one, I thought like playing that, you know, and then just talking over on the side. You know, like having it silenced over here so people could still watch it and pretend that they're watching it. And go over the syllabus or something.

Yeah,

I think I'm a little envious that Jim is going to be completely numbed during the inauguration.

No, I don't think I will be

Continuing around the set of boxes here Professor Heather Hill, fresh back from her sabbatical

I'm not back yet, baby.

She's got a whole another semester

Yeah, I knew that saying that would get a rise out of you.

Oh, yeah, yeah. You're so predictable.

How are things going Heather?

Um, It could be a little better.

That's all right. Nothing wrong with that. Ask the professor makes everything a little bit better, like the chiropractor.

So it's gonna snap us back in place.

That's right. Let's crack the back of this show and get down to business

Let's - let's align you better.

I went to a surgeon for that.

Oh yeah, that's right, that's right.

Twice. Two different parts of my spine.

Well, Heather we're glad to see you here at ATP today.

I'm glad to see you here as well.

Excellent. Now, someone's gonna have to explain what this box labeled Stephen contains, because I see books. I recognize those but everything else is, it's like one of those capture things, are you a robot, like is Stephen in this box? well of course he isn't, you know,

the refuge from Les Miz is missing.

Stephen, you You definitely dropped some poundage by shaving off your beard.

Yeah, I guess. You should have seen the barber's floor when he was finished.

In other words, you couldn't see the barber's floor.

Just covered with the hair.

Oh my gosh, incredible incredible. You're like a totally different man.

I think there was a – He added a surcharge for the cleanup.

Oh my gosh, Professor Dan Maggio is also here with us today what's going on, Dan.

Not too much. Glad we have often Monday. You do too. Don't you.

Yeah, we do. First day of the semester off, big thumbs up!

That's okay. Dan, everybody has s

Good thing my classes don't start until Wednesday. actually I'd be fine but I'm still glad I don't start till Wednesday.

Sure, sure.

So the same arrangements for next term is all remote,

relatively speaking, yeah. Relatively. we have a data in on that with only a few days to go before the first day of the term that there was a 6% shift to more remote teaching for the winter semester at Detroit Mercy,

only 6%.?

Well, it was a low percentage to start with. So now we're at less than 5% total in person.

Wow

Uh, Continuing, we've got a couple more people we've got to announce here. Professor Jeffe boats is with us. What's shakin Jeffe

not too much. getting excited for another semester coming up.

That's right.

Completely on-line for the Math Department.

Yeah what's on your teaching docket?

oh this semester well on-line algebra, as usual, and then just calculus and math history.

Okay, Math history is always good for a chuckle.

Yeah. Math History would be interesting.

It's fun course. it's fun. These days it's sort of the stand in for, if a student has dyscalculia and can't do algebra or anything like that, they end up taking math history, instead, because it's not a part of any programs anymore. Now that we don't have education, but -

That's right.

I still get customers for that.

That's cool.

Last, but most certainly not least, we have Professor Jacob Kagey from Biology, the Six Mile fly guy himself, as a guest panelist today. Thanks for joining us Jacob.

I appreciate the invitation, and I'm part of the other. I'm going from online to in person, so I've screwed up the numbers.

Yikes!

Will you bring all your flies with you.

Oh, I travel with them, Jim. Yeah. They come with me.

You can't do research on these things if you don't have them handy, all the time

I have definitely looked up before especially when I moved here from Atlanta like what the interstate laws were for me driving with like 700 stocks of flies in my car.

Don't we all.

Yeah.

Oh my gosh.

That's why I leave the McDonald wrappers in the back to feed them.

I knew there was a joke about McDonald's wrappers or rotting fruit coming. We've already cleared it. Hey folks, you know this is a program where you can send us questions regarding anything. you can stump the panel and win a prize. You can send us the questions in a number of ways you can email us at ATP at UD mercy.edu, find us on Facebook or Instagram or listen on your favorite smart speaker by asking it to play ask the professor at University of Detroit mercy. We have a very well-timed set of questions here and I will read the intro sent to us last December, so very long ago. "Dear profs. Well, we're heading into another long winter here in the Upper Peninsula, as if 2020 hasn't been long enough. To tell the truth, staying home is what we're best at up here anyway. So this hasn't been all that different, during the pandemic. I decided to entertain myself by jotting down a few questions about our presidents. There's only 12, and I'll consider 10 a passing score. Have fun. And here's to staying healthy."

Your question set is inaugurations and other presidential factoids by Marilyn Bachorik in the very very cold city of Munising, Michigan. Thanks for sending those questions, Marilyn, just in time to come, probably a week or two after our annual four-year ritual here in the United States. So here we go. Which American president gave the shortest inaugural address if you measure the number of words.

I'm gonna guess Lincoln.

Lincoln is a good guess. it's not

Because the Gettysburg Address was so short.

I'm thinking like intelligent words or -

Washington's first?

You know, I'm gonna go partial credit for you there Beth, because it was Washington's second.

Oh, I thought that one was a little longer,

I know which President had the least coherent sentences in it.

Yeah. You mean sentences in general,

complete sentences, yeah.

syllables. I

t says, Washington's second was only 135 words, and if you had to summarize it, it basically would come down to, "I've got work to do."

I'm here.

Who gave, and this is actually quite a quite a twist here, I wish that they would have included the number of words. According to popular tradition content, who gave the longest inaugural address.

Probably William Henry Harrison

It was William Henry Harrison.

And he died from it, so - It was deadly.

He spoke for over two hours in bitter cold, and of course was dead 31 days later.

cold drizzle.

Yes.

So far, only one American president has been sworn in by a woman. who was that?

Oh LBJ.

It was. On the plane. Yeah, LBJ on Air Force One in Dallas after John Kennedy was assassinated. Johnson chose Federal District Judge Sarah Hughes, a long standing friend, to swear him in. Which President was sworn into office by his father?

Calvin Coolidge.

It says here, Jim's on a tear, it was Coolidge. Yeah, Coolidge.

Oh, Jim attended it, that's why he knows.

In a cabin in Vermont or something?

that's right

after he found out that Harding had died. Yeah.

Yep, by the light of a kerosene lamp his father, the local notary administered the oath of office, as he placed his hand on the family Bible.

After Harding had died mysteriously in San Francisco.

In 1992, during a visit to Japan, President George Herbert Walker Bush attended a state dinner, where he did something that was embarrassing.

He threw up. He had the flu. That was unfortunate.

Yep, it says that

And we thought that was scandalous

I just felt bad for him, because I imagined how mortified he must have been.

Yeah,

right.

According to popular legend, and I seem to remember the video which shows, my generation, he actually vomited on the Japanese Prime Minister.

He did the -

The lean over,

Not fun. Not fun.

Two stars.

Well, they got something to talk about.

(Laughs)

Two stars.

That was American carnage

frequently acknowledged

If that was only the worst example we had.

this question says frequently acknowledged, pre Trump in parentheses, as the worst American president, who actually gambled away a set of White House China in a poker game?

Well I mean worst has always been -

Andrew Jackson?

I was going to say Nixon, but

it's early 20th century I should know this but I'm blanking.

Warren Harding?

He wasn't the worst.

It actually says it was Harding. Yeah, it says it was Harding. I mean whether he was worst or not he gambled away

he was not the worst, not anymore

He's been eclipsed somebody set the bar high.

I think Jackson's got a pretty good claim.

Yeah,

Well, Buchanan was no prize.

And let's not forget, I know I bring this up every time Beth, but Jackson was the one who accused someone running against him of being a cannibal. I think that that's the most hilarious thing ever. "At least I don't eat other humans like my distinguished colleague over here"

In a pizza parlor in New York.

There have always been crazy people, but they didn't always have the internet.

That's right.

Of all the presidential children still living, now I want to point out this was submitted first of December, 2020, who's the oldest, born March 19 1944. ps: hint, it's a woman

Is it Nixon's daughter

Eisenhower's daughter.

Yeah, I was gonna say Eisenhower.

You know I have Tricia Nixon was actually born in 1946, so she's on the shortlist, but this isn't the correct response.

Kennedy.

Truman. No.

Jimmy Carter. No.

No. These are of all the presidential children that are still living.

or sorry, W Bush.

No, you know it says it's Linda Bird Johnson Robb. Born in 1944. In reverse order from there, to round out the top five, Michael Reagan, George W was a good guess. Patricia Nixon and Lucy Baines Johnson.

I forgot. I wasn't thinking about George W Bush as the kid of

As a child.

Somebody, somebody claims him as a child.

Everybody's somebody's kids.

Yeah. I teach genetics, it's really easy. it's just,

oh man, which newly sworn-in president was lassoed while standing at the podium.

Roosevelt?

All right, who is this -

You're in the right window.

Let's see, Bill Clinton while wearing leather. No. Was it an LBJ kind of thing.

No,

A Texas kind of thing

Hoover. Lassoed.

the way the story plays out, cowboys were so popular in 1953. That one was included -

Oh, Eisenhower.

Yeah, it was Dwight Eisenhower. Monte Montana, who was a celebrity cowboy, rode up to the inaugural parade on horseback and lassoed the president.

What, Was it like Hannah Montana's great grandfather?

security was different back then.

Yeah. I'm okay with that as a representation as opposed to tanks or some stupid military thing that only Trump would want.

Right, exactly.

Well, the roads are built for tanks in Washington.

That's right. Whose inaugural parade included on purpose, an Elvis impersonator
Nixon.

Hmm.

Isn't he the only one that ever met Elvis?

Carter?

No it wasn't Carter. It was a little more modern.

Clinton.

It was Clinton, Bill Clinton,

I said Clinton!

I apologize, I apologize.

Nobody listens to me.

It says Clinton wanted fun at his parade, so he included both an Elvis impersonator and a reggae band.

And he was the first to get out of the car and walk for his inaugural parade

And Pee-wee Herman was the drum major

on his tricycle. Or bicycle.

Two US presidents were adopted, legally adopted. Who were they?

Gerald Ford was one of them.

That's the obvious one

is legally adopted an important part of that question,

Well, only because it would be unfair, with the popular logic around adoption to say that they were, they lost their parents or were abandoned by their parents and then grew up in a different family. They were adopted by one of their parents.

Clinton the other

Clinton is the other one yeah that's right absolutely. Bill Clinton.

Oh, can you imagine the birtherism on that

adopted by one of your - I have questions,

Me too!

He was dopted by a stepparent.

Okay, yeah, I was thinking like a biological parent and then you adopt your kid, but that isn't what you think about what being adopted as.

You just need some extra security to make sure your kids or your kids these days,

That's true. Having them come out of your body is clearly not enough anymore it's not enough.

I want to see a birth certificate Stephanie.

This is why we instituted marriage, so that men would have -

Ownership rights,

A means of claiming their offspring.

Right.

Oh, I know you're gonna love this one. One president was gifted a 1400 pound wheel of cheese at his inauguration, and it stayed in the White House.

Andrew Jackson's famous block of cheese.

That's right. It's Andrew Jackson

It is Andrew Jackson this time.

Anybody who watches West Wing knows that.

That's right.

It says that he held on to it for his entire term and decided to dispose of it uniquely when he left office, his second term was winding down to get rid of it. 10,000 visitors attended a public reception and attacked the wheel of cheese with such fervor that the entire thing was gone in less than 120 minutes.

Yeah. T

Attack is such a horrible word to use right about now.

Yeah,

well I hope they didn't break out all the windows that time.

If you can climb the chain link fence

cheese Insurrection.

Last one here from Marilyn. These are quite great. We've gone the gamut from adoption to cheese,

Did you just say "grate" right after a cheese question, Matt?

Which President took a 19 day cross country trip the summer after he retired.

Teddy Roosevelt.

That sounds about right, but it's incorrect.

but he would he would have done it on horseback too

19 day cross country trip,

you'll love this. He and his wife traveled in their brand new Chrysler New Yorker, eating in cheap diners and staying at motels or with friends, no secret service accompanied him. just packed the car and drove

Truman.

Jimmy Carter.

Doesn't it sound like Harry Truman.

Yes it does

You couldn't do that now.

That's his game, Harry Truman, you know,

the guy who loved to paint by numbers,

You did pretty well. Dave, if you want to mark it, I really think that was only one that we couldn't get right. It was Linda Byrd Johnson Rob. So pretty darn, pretty darn good there professors.

We survived.

Well, We have a communique from one of our longtime question writers. Kymberleigh Richards asked me to read this on the air. "I've been horribly lax on ATP in recent months. I've been dealing with a lot of things here including some non COVID related issues." And if you remember the last time we talked to Kimberly, she's really big into raising budgies little parents. Yeah, she lost a few of them at the end of 2020, so sorry to hear that. "I literally caught up on the last dozen podcasts in two binge sessions over the weekend, all of which explains why you didn't get another set of questions immediately until after use the last ones. And that's even more maddening to me as I've been separating out presidential trivia for you to use around the inauguration" so you know where this is coming. "Please tell Beth, that I have a story about the Kiss song as well. I think I've told you that my background is in radio programming. The first station I was program director at after a few years of being on air talent was in 1978. The station was a sleepy middle of the road Easy Listening format, which the mom of the mom and pop owners loved but was bringing in close to zero ad revenue. So pop hired me to install a soft rock format instead basically top 40, as you might guess the kiss song was in the library and fit perfectly . one day, I went into a commercial break saying the Rolling Stones would play next, and here comes mom in a tizzy. The song I played was Angie, remembering that Beth was such a pretty song."

It is a pretty song.

Why am I picturing Kimberly Richards working at like Wkrp.

Kimberly says I issued a memo to the effect that all the effort was to be expended to prevent her from ever finding out what the band actually looked like.

Dan, What was the name of the band in WKRP

Oh, the three – the three guys from Britain,

Scum.

The Scum of the Earth.

Yes.

Oh, way to go, Heather. Awesome. Kimberly says, "somehow we succeeded in hiding that fact from her. I thought Professor Oljar would appreciate the story." Oh my. These are inaugural questions as well. We can sort of cap them on to the latter part of our show here. Which US president is popularly known to have banned the use of a Christmas tree within the White House.

Teddy Roosevelt.

That was Teddy Roosevelt, an avowed environmentalist that said the tree should not need to be cut down. Which President delivered the first presidential address on radio, almost 100 years ago.

Coolidge?

Harding?

Hoover?

I think I heard it.

Coolidge.

It was Calvin Coolidge December 6 1923, the first ever presidential address over radio.

Yeah cause by Roosevelt that was more common

Yeah, the fireside chats, yeah.

Calvin Coolidge's son died from an ingrown toenail.

Oh,

Are you kidding me?

No.

Disturbing.

I have those in my youth. It was not fun.

Foot care,

glad I'm still alive. I think that most folks on this call are going to be able to answer this one within a nanosecond. Which us vice president killed somebody while they were in office.

Aaron Burr.

Mm-hm.

Killed Alexander Hamilton,

Alexander Hamilton, you've got it,

Of course, Mike Pence has probably got enough rage in him right about now.

I don't think he does. I honestly, I don't. I mean, if he didn't have rage in him after the events of last week, then he's in some sense just insensate, right. I mean, he's just literally not sentient, I guess, unless mother says it's okay.

So true, so true. By the way, the, the tidbit that Kimberly always supplies with her questions. "Which U.S. vice president killed a man while in office?" "The death of Hamilton however ended burr's political career."

Yes.

Yep.

Yeah, yeah, That's all it took. How about one more question, professors. We're running a little bit low on time. let's see what you can do with this one. What was the only US state won by the Democratic candidate in 1984?

Massachusetts,

Massachusetts,

Minnesota.

Beth, Beth got it. Minnesota was won by Walter Mondale.

Cause it was Mondale's home state

California would have been Reagan.

That was the first presidential election I voted in.

Oh, there you go. There you go. I, my Mondale story is very straightforward. My postdoc was at a small liberal arts college Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota. Yeah. And one day I was getting ready to wrap up to go home for the day and decided I'd hit the restroom on the way home and Walter Mondale was in the restroom. and I was like, You ran for President 1984. That's all I remember,

So you share stalls, or had a stall adjacent to him?

I will reveal nothing more about the event

Uh, we don't need to know

Somewhere in my house I still have a Mondale Ferrari sign.

I love it.

From that campaign.

That's right,

And that's way too classy to mention whether he washed his hands on the way out,

I'm not going Seinfeld on this.

Jeff, you'll notice he didn't shake his hand, he just -

He just nodded.

I can tell you without question, he did not recognize who I was,

What! Oh, that's why he lost.

Professors I'm afraid that's all the time we have for today ,so we're going to first say goodbye, Jacob.

Goodbye,

Jeffe

Hail to the chiefs

Dan.

goodbye.

Steven

Bye

Dave,

See ya

Beth.

Bye,

Mara,

Tutolo

Heather.

Bubye

Stephanie,

Bye

and Jim.

Arrivederci

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

ask the professor is transcribed, 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 masonville, and our executive producer is Professor Jason Roche. Till next time, I'm your host Matt Mio.