

## ATP 2121 - transcript

Speaker 1

0:09

The University of Detroit mercy presents another brand new episode of Ask The professor. Today's program was recorded using zoom video conferencing technology.

Speaker 2

0:27

University tower chimes bringing in another session of Ask The professor the show on 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. The man, with only a voice, and a great intellect, it's Professor Jeffe Boats.

Oh, Hello.



0:49

hello Jeffe, how you doing

0:51

my internet seems to be shaky all of a sudden

Speaker 2

0:53

Oh no. Feel free to grab your laptop and shake it really hard or whatever device you're using

0:59

I hear that helps.

0:59

It's the metal plate in your head again, Jeffe.

1:01

It says my internet connection is unstable, I don't know what that means.

1:05

Oh,

1:07

don't take it personally.

Speaker 2

1:08

Yeah, I would say, if your internet connection is the only thing that's unstable, and not your fabric of the federal government, I think you're doing just fine, just fine. Dan Maggio is here with us today. What's going on, Dan.

Oh, not much. I'm looking forward to the weekend. Trying to relax and not think about politics.

1:27

Oh, I apologize for making that joke then

1:32

If you quit bringing it up

1:34

it's a - it's a wild, wild world that we're living in, and we all deserve a chance to take a break. Professor Stephen Manning is here with us today. What's going on, Stephen.

1:43

Not much. Same old, same old.

1:47

The pandemic maybe.

Huh?

Are you referring to the pandemic?

1:53

Well, yeah, life is settled into the - to a certain, a certain pattern to it. You know, you can't go anywhere, you can't go to the movies. I guess you can now but I'm not going. I'm not going anywhere. I keep getting things from landmark theatres, you know, and apparently they're letting four people in per show or something. No popcorn either, so I'm not going

2:15

That's not a movie.

Sneak your own in.

2:17

I've done that before. Actually,

2:20

there is going to be that, uh, That big drive in, from what I heard, advertised fairly recently that seems like.

Down in Monroe, yeah.

popcorn is actually easier than something like Junior Mints or Raisinets, I love raisinets at the theater. that the box, you know,

They rattle

You go in there and you take your jacket off, and there's all this rasonet rattling. And he's, you have the Usher looking at you mysteriously, huh, what's that noise.

2:50

Continuing with our introductions here and of course it's Professor Dave Chow.

pleasure to be here as always.

What's shakin, Dave.

Nothing much. Just another day. We were, in light of all this construction going on the neighborhood, We're in line too now.

That's right. Talk to me.

We're getting a garage built sometime in the spring.

Oh, are you going to take down the one you have.

Yep.

Okay,

3:12

Mass destruction I can't wait.

I hope that your timetable is better than our neighbor across the street from you seems to be taking quite a bit of time to finish.

Oh well i mean he's single handedly doing it I feel bad for him.

Yeah, yeah.

And he's also collapsed on the neighbor's fence several times too so.

Yikes. So, Professor Beth Oljar is here, and is about to tell us what large scale construction project she has in mind for the winter.

3:44

Uh, No. Did some repairs last winter. I have no large scale construction projects planned.

3:52

No worries, no worries, I was just trying to

Other than classes, that are quite large,

I would say that those fit though, Beth. Classes are a big deal.

4:01

And I have to learn how to teach on a tablet, so I can do Symbolic Logic next fall, which I'm just, the metaphysics of it, elude me. I actually, I just don't quite get how the tablet works when I'm sitting in front of my desktop. To access, I'm sorry the metaphysics of technology typically just does completely overwhelm me.

I believe that Professor Mara Livezey, uh, next in line here, understands and would like to send you good vibes.

But I feel so guilty because the students have been asking me for Symbolic Logic, and I haven't taught it in two years, so I finally decided like, well you just better man up and learn how to do the thing online and get it over with.

That's right.

I'm gonna do it fall and winter next year.

4:48

Okay.

Beth, just learn some new words. The metaphysics of technology just sounds too daunting. Think of something else to call it.

Sounds scary.

4:57

But that's the only word that's actually right for the -

(Laughter)

5:01

That doesn't make it useful,

5:03

bells and whistles have worked for generations.

5:07

Instead of like “couch to five k” be like “laptop to symbolic reasoning “or something like that.

5:14

Yeah, exactly.

Speaker 5

5:15

I literally have no idea how I'm going to teach that class. Unless the tablet substitutes as a whiteboard right. so then I could write on it and then the

shadow puppets

Yeah,

5:26

you could film yourself in front of a blackboard.

5:29

Oh please,

5:31

Beth, you have plenty of time, plenty of time between now and August to, uh -

5:35

Ha! I thought that when classes ended in mid December; and here we are, so don't tell me about plenty of time. I can waste time like you wouldn't believe

5:48

In other news, have you seen Eli Roth's history of -

5:52

Yes, it's amazing. it's great.

5:55

Oh my. Well, Professor Mara Livezey was showing you her, I think it was your iPad, is that what you were trying to send good vibes?

6:02

That's right. I was showing my iPad, you know if you just drag the blackboard screen onto your tablet, and then if you have a pen.; You can use it just like a whiteboard, it's really straightforward. I highly recommend.

6:15

There you go, Beth.

6:17

Okay,

6:17

we're gonna figure it out.

6:19

Stand back, I'm going to do science

6:25

teaching from a tablet has really been life saving, because in, you know, biochemistry sure I could just like type notes onto a slide, but actually drawing pictures is incredibly helpful. So, I need a tablet to teach.

Drawing pictures. who wants to do that?

6:41

You should hire Dave, and he could be your Illustrator.

Whoa.

6:46

And I wouldn't have to keep apologizing to my students for my artistic ability.

Speaker 2

6:50

All right, all right I'm taking requests.

Professor Heather Hill is joining us today.

6:56

Hello.

6:57

what's shakin' Heather?



6:59

Um, My child turned 21 yesterday.

Wow!

7:05

that's a milestone though for a parent. that's a milestone.

7:09

Yeah. I'm trying to come to grips with it, but you know, she's acted 21 since she was 12 so.

7:16

Right, exactly. We're only just about four weeks away in the Mioi household from having two teenagers, and I don't know if I can even process those words in that order, frankly, So,

7:30

can I recommend losing your sense of smell.

7:39

I was gonna say, Stephanie will have advice here.

Actually, it's a perfect transition ,Professor Stephanie Conant from Biology; because Of course we both have three sons. and boy oh boy oh boy, you are preaching to the choir. that's all I got to say.

7:50

We are actually doing a major bathroom renovation. In the upcoming month or two. And so,



7:56

isn't it cold cleanup. Oh,

7:58

yeah, we had to go pick out like cabinets and tile stuff and so they were arguing about like mold and like grout stuff. and I was like, “to be really honest, I'm worried about toothpaste and pee, like what are the things that are gonna show the least of those things”. So the contractor was like “What!”

Speaker 7

8:21

What's gonna hide the most.

what's gonna be the easiest to clean.

Exactly, yeah,

8:26

you should just be concerned with the width of the drain. Right? I mean,

8:30

I don't understand people who have marble floors in their bathroom. I'm like, that's just a disaster waiting to happen. I could slip and crack my head open.

8:38

That's a slip and fall.

Every time I hear about these sorts of things Stephanie and I think of one of my favorite Simpsons quotes like “doing the dishes is for the birds Mom, how about you just feed us out of one long bowl”. “You mean a trough”

8:53

That's not a bad idea.

Yeah.

I have been known to do the dollar store like tablecloths, and then just wrap it all up at the end and throw it away.

9:02

What a great idea.

Tablecloth?

9:05

Yeah, like buy one for \$1 that's just cheap -

9:07

I thought you just tipped the table out the window.

Same sort of thing. Hey, Professor Jim Tubbs is here too

9:15

Hello, Hello.

9:16

I just love how you can sit there in your chair, Jim. Your chair fits into the, the frame so perfectly. I, every time, I just, I get a fireside chat vibe. It's good for winter, good for winter, very cozy.

9:28

Well it is cozy, it is cozy.

9:30

Yes, absolutely. You getting ready for another semester of teaching, adjunct teaching?

9:34

No. I am not teaching this term.

What?

9:38

Lucky!

Lucky guy.

9:40

Well I've been retired for a year and a half. I mean, give me a break.

9:44

I suppose we can.

You know, Jim. It's about time you stop teaching.

9:50

Well I just agreed to teach next fall.

Okay.

You know, I figured, all the stuff I've had to put online already. Why waste it. You know I can use some of that again.

10:00

No, that's true. And last but again most certainly not least, we are favored by guest panelist Professor Jacob Kagey from the Department of Biology and his friends.

10:11

Yes, Good afternoon. And as someone with two pre teenage boys, I just sit here terrified listening to stories. Quietly huddled in the corner.

10:21

Oh my gosh.

It could be worse, you could be like Marty Leever in my department and have four daughters, which he absolutely adores.

Speaker 7

10:30

I'm sure I would love them. It would just be a different set of problems.

That's right. Well folks, this is a program where you can send us questions regarding anything. It's been a while since we've had some solid grout questions. I can tell you that. If you stump the panel you win a prize. You can send us the questions in a number of ways, emailing us at ATP at UD mercy dot 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've got a wonderful set of questions here from Kimberleigh Richards that are quite presidential, the questions that is. And we will continue with those and see what we can do. How many times has the electoral college voting, not resulted in the majority needed for a candidate?

11:20

three,

four.

One

Two.

11:21

Wow. So our winner. Mara got it with two, it looks like Thomas Jefferson's 1801, and John Quincy Adams 1825 have the electoral college was not good enough, apparently, be able to suss it out.

11:36

Yeah, well, the electoral college truly isn't good enough.

Speaker 2

11:42

Except for, very nice, have to say considering it's all factoid usually, very very nice opinion piece in the USA Today papers today including the Detroit Free Press about polycentricity, saving the union over the last four months. everybody should read it, it was very interesting

11:59

yes.

Speaker 2

12:00

Who was the first. First Lady, to give birth within the walls of the White House.

Not literally within the walls, but within the confines

Yeah.

The hint here -

12:16

While her husband was in office,

right, it says the hint here was - she was the youngest first lady, at 21 years old.

12:24

Was it Grover Cleveland's wife,

12:27

it was. it was Francis Cleveland. Yes.

12:29

that was scandalous when he was -

that's right, yeah. how much older was he?

12:35

About 80 years. No, but I think maybe 30 or 40.

12:40

Yeah.

Speaker 2

12:42

This, for the record, the child that resulted from this birth is the only child of a president to be born within the White House. By the way, it's very interesting here, because I wonder if we could play the old game of twist. Many people believe that Jackie Kennedy was the youngest first lady of all time, but she was how old when her husband took office?

13:03

30, uh 31?

31. yeah she was 10 years older than Francis Cleveland

Yeah.

what was George Washington's annual salary. let's just go for the mean here, when he was president of the United States.

13:17

Seven territories.

(Laughter)

Dan, what was your guess?

\$10.

13:25

A bag of wampum

13:26

\$200

\$1800.

13:33

Uh - No.

We're all wrong.

13:37

I'll guess about 100,000,



13:39

you know, um, you're a little bit closer than some of the other ones we've heard here. he got \$25,000 for his first year. If we scaled that up to 2020 from 1789, he was earning \$378,000 for doing that job.

What do they get now, 450?

13:58

Yeah 425, isn't it?

Speaker 2

14:01

So it's on par, If you think about it.

Yeah, pretty much.

Which vice president was forced to resign from office?

Spiro Agnew.

The 39th Vice President of the United States, Spiro Agnew.

right absolutely

14:16

a super crook,

14:17

a super crook No, I believe that's absolutely true.

14:20

That's how we ended up with Gerald Ford.

Speaker 2

14:22

Well, that's right, it says Agnew was allowed to plead no contest to a single charge. He had failed to report \$29,000 of income received in 1967, with the condition that he resign his office. And I'm looking up at Stephanie's box because we have had a lot of discussion about like the difference in the gravity of things that people do. Wait, You hid microphones in a hotel room? For shame.

Scandalous

Speaker 6

14:51

well Spiro was still getting payments from contractors from Maryland in his office in the Executive Office Building, as Vice President, the bag man would come and visit him.

Speaker 2

15:02

Yep. Yeah, whereas somebody like dick cheney just had it hidden in another room that's all

Well, it's the same thing is the other direction, because now we look back on george bush and think, well when did we, how would we ever have thought he was a statesman, you know, but by comparison.

15:17

Yes, a lot of things change by comparison.

15:21

Yeah.

So when a Vice President leaves office, how is he replaced or she replaced? Does the President choose or is there

I think it's an appointment.

15:30

Yeah, it can be appointed and approved by the Senate. and the first one of those was Gerald Ford's Vice President Nelson Rockefeller.

That's right.

15:40

You're listening to a special edition of Ask The Professor, in which each of the 10 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. Now, let's return to our host Matt Mio, with more questions for the panel.

Speaker 2

16:07

We've got a wonderful set of questions here from Kimberleigh Richards. Professors, how many presidents served in any branch of the military during World War Two, this is a good question.

16:20

Quite a few.

Yeah.

Kennedy, Poppy Bush.

16:24

Eisenhower

Truman,

16:26

No. Truman didn't serve in World War Two.

He didn't ?

Was Carter a veteran?

No, Truman served in World War One.

16:32

I don't think Carter's a veteran Jeffe

16:34

Carter was in the Navy.

Navy, yeah.

With nuclear submarines.

16:38

Well Kennedy served in World War Two.

16:41

He served in World War Two, Eisenhower served in World War Two, Poppy Bush did. Lyndon Johnson did not. Nixon did. Nixon served in World War Two.

Really, what did -

So, the question asked for a number and you basically have it. What is it?

Five?

16:56

Six?

Seven.

16:59

It's a magical, magical seven. Yes, exactly. Which US president paid off the entire national debt, while in office?

Clinton.

17:13

No. Wait, wait. Personally?

17:15

Balanced the budget

17:20

Not personally.

Obama?

You know, Obama is not what it says here.

Clinton came close.

17:29

I thought Clinton got us into a surplus.

17:31

He got into a surplus. But that wasn't the debt.

Speaker 2

17:35

It actually says that here. the last president to balance the budget and retain a surplus was Bill Clinton. however, the first to get us out of national debt was,

17:46

McKinley?

No, you know, it says here, it's our old friend. Andrew Jackson had a big party on January 8 1835. "Ladies and gentlemen, the national debt has been paid to zero". Pretty weird.

17:58

Well, He probably executed all of the debtors,

18:04

Who was the only presidential candidate to die during the electoral process? For the record, this candidate died the day after the national election.

Wow.

It's a good story.

Oh,

wow.

He did not take it well.

18:28

I'm actually finding it interesting, because Kimberleigh always gives us this wonderful background information. There's no sense or rationale to the passing, it's just a set of facts, it could have been a landslide loss, I'm sorry, Stephanie.

18:42

I just said, and they died.

18:43

Oh yeah, exactly. You know who it was. it was Horace Greeley who ran against Ulysses S Grant in 1872.

Oh,

The report of the electoral college was Grant 286, Greeley 66, and he passed away the next day. Poor guy.

19:02

I feel like he's not talked about enough.

19:03

Yeah. I think Stephanie's right.

For shame.

and was he the last person named Ulysses that we know of? I mean come on, there's a name you never hear of anymore.

All I can think of is who's buried in Grant's tomb. That's all I can tell ya. Who was the last US president, who said on television, "Live from New York. It's Saturday night."

19:25

Last president?

Obama.

It wasn't Obama.

Clinton.

No, it wasn't Bill Clinton

Was it Gerald Ford?

Speaker 2

19:31

it was Jerry Ford, it says here.

Yeah.

Yeah, he has the honor of being the first last and only president to appear on Saturday Night Live, as well as of course the first president impersonated.

Speaker 6

19:43

Well, and that was good sportsmanship on his part, because Chevy Chase portrayed him as falling over all the furniture all the time.

19:50

Lie down liberty.



19:52

Which actually ended up getting Chevy Chase in a lot of trouble because he actually did a fair bit of damage to himself and got addicted to painkillers, if I recall correctly

I just, I remember my parents indoctrinating me into the world of comedy through Saturday Night Live, and I'm like, that guy doesn't look like any of the pictures I've seen of Jerry Ford, and they're like, "well, he just falls down a lot" I'm like, okay,

Come on. we also grew up around like Rich Little. it doesn't sound like him. doesn't look like him.

Right,

20:19

although I have to say, because the television is on in my living room in the background, And we just had a press conference a few minutes ago by Biden, and he's beginning to look like Jim Carrey's impersonation of him. Which is not a good thing.

20:35

Maybe that's just you, Jim,

20:38

you're projecting.

20:40

or hoping.

Who did President Roosevelt allow to join the US Navy during World War Two.

His son?

Fala?

I mean if I just wait to you that it's the last person that you're thinking of, if you just went straight for the straight comedy joke, who would be the last person the president states would allow to join the Navy in the middle of World War Two.

Ernest Borgnine

His wife?

Himself?

21:19

Hitler.

Speaker 2

21:21

It was uh. You get it Beth. it was Hitler's nephew.

21:24

Ohhh!

What!

21:26

Ernest Borgnine sounded better.

Yep. William Patrick Hitler, nephew of Adoff in 1942 wrote to FDR begging to be allowed to serve in the military.

Wow,

21:41

Well, I hope we made good propaganda use of that

21:44

I really hope so. Yeah,

I just keep on wondering about people with names like that, you know like, You know, do you just change your name after the, after a while, you know,

21:55

Yeah, what did Ulysses Hitler do in the 50s.

22:01

For the record, William Hitler went on to serve three years, he was a pharmacist's mate in the Navy and received the Purple Heart after having been wounded, so -

yeah but they didn't say his own crew wounded him. That's all.

Oh my, which former US president is not left handed, which former US president is not left handed/

Okay, Barack and Clinton are.

22:32

Are you gonna give us a list

Speaker 2

22:36

Uh, this one is phrased oddly, but the response unfortunately is also phrased badly, so we'll do what we can.

22:43

Is it makes it sound like all of them have been left handed,

22:46

except for like one -

right

22:48

George w bush?

Which I find statistically difficult to believe.

22:51

And can you fake that on your birth certificate?

22:54

birtherism,

Speaker 2

22:54

I feel like giving this one to Beth straight up because the spirit of this question is, of the last 10 presidents-

23:01

Oh last 10

5 have been left handed, when the percentage of left handedness, geneticists?

10%

left handed geneticists.

Oh,

23:11

no way.

Lefties rule!

23:14

It's about 10%.

23:17

He's like a unicorn.

Speaker 2

23:21

So yeah, of the former US presidents that are not left handed, basically, the, what's written here is all but eight: Obama Garfield Hoover Truman Ford Reagan HW Bush and Bill Clinton, what's most most noteworthy is how many left handed presidents we've had in the modern era

Isn't that crazy.

23:40

Oh, yeah.

23:42

That's it, I'm nominating Beth.

Speaker 5

23:45

Paul McCartney is left handed, Davinci was left handed. I'm just saying.

23:51

My middle son is left handed.

23:53

Oh, interesting,

23:54

He's an interesting duck. So you never know

Neither of my kids is left handed. It bums me out.

Yeah. Yet.

Well, you could force them to write that way.

Yeah, exactly.

24:08

Okay one in 12 shot professors, which month of the year has had the most presidents born in it?

24:15

March,

January

September,

24:18

July,

February.

24:22

Where's Kendra when we need her?

May.

24:24

October.

It's October, and Beth is on a roll.

24:32

Duh! Everybody knows you make presidents in January.

(Group laughter)

That inauguration fever.

Speaker 2

24:39

In just a few hours, because I go to websites now that are counting down the hours, I think that's kind of fun. We'll have 46, give or take presidents. How many of those 46 presidents were born in October?

24:55

33

37.

24:58

14,

25:02

Come on Dan Help. Uh, Jeff is gone so we need the math angle.

Speaker 3

25:07

Well, on average would be like 3.8 per month or so. Right.

25:15

So I - seven.

Speaker 3

25:16

So I that's why I guess twice that so seven.

Speaker 2

25:19

Yes, I think Jim and Dan win the prize. it's six, but you approach the problem mathematically,

Speaker 3

25:24

I get credit for. We get credit for being somewhat analytical.

25:30

Don't blame me for that.

Speaker 2

25:36

Whose official residence is on the grounds of the US Naval Observatory

25:40

The vice president.

Absolutely.

25:43

Is it Blair House or – Is that what it is?

25:44

Speaker 6

25:47

It is the Naval Observatory house, it, but only since Rockefeller. he was the first to live there.

25:51

Right, that's correct.

25:53

Blair House is the place across the street.

25:54

Okay, gotcha gotcha.

Speaker 2

25:56

Yep, was the only US president, who was born in the great state of Illinois.

26:03

Lincoln,

26:04

no born there.

26:07



He was born in Kentucky. That's right.

26:09

Let me think. Born in Illinois.

26:12

born in Tampico, Illinois,

26:17

was it Grant.

26:18

Nope.

Reagan.

26:20

it was Ronald Reagan.

26:25

That's where he did his radio show too.

26:27

Mm hmm. That's right. Who catered the wedding reception of President Woodrow Wilson, in 1915. This is the greatest piece of trivia, in the history of the world.

What, like Panera Bread?

To end our show for today, because there's nothing that can top it in a million years

White Castle

26:51

KFC

26:53

It wasn't Tyler with his cheese, was it?

26:59

I heard White Castle, I heard some snarky responses. You just need to move the needle a little bit and you'll be good to go.

27:07

What?

27:09

Howard Johnson's.

27:11

Nope.

Golden Arches.

They weren't

27:15

What KFC, who else was around,

27:18

1915,

27:18

Kentucky Fried Chicken?

Speaker 2

27:19

You're not gonna be able to digest this.

I don't know.

It was Hector Boiardi.

27:29

Chef Boyardee. Oh, wow.

Speaker 2

27:31

and by the way the response is written, "the man on the can", is what it says here. That's it.

27:38

Oh wow, Kimberleigh, those are just incredible.

27:41

Wow.

27:43

Yeah, Those are amazing.

Speaker 2

27:43

There's no way, no way to follow up after Chef Boyardee. yeah that's just

wow

Absolutely incredible. I'm afraid that, ah -

27:53

"We're having Beef-A-Roni"

Speaker 2

27:57

This has been great fun but I'm afraid the time has come to say goodbye, Jacob,

28:01

Goodbye. Happy Friday,

Jim.

28:03

Goodbye,

28:04

Stephanie

Good Bye

Heather.

28:07

Buby.

28:08

Mara.

See you later,

Beth.

Bye,

Dave.

See ya.

Stephen

bye

and Dan.

Good-bye

And now these words,

you can email ask the professor at ATP at [UD\\_mercy.edu](mailto:UD_mercy.edu) or visit the Ask the professor Facebook page.

Ask the professor is transcribed in the Department of Communication Studies in the College of Liberal Arts and Education at the University of Detroit Mercy's McNichols campus, we're 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.