

ATP 2123 - transcript

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

The university tower times ringing 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. To my lower right, it's Professor James Balfour Tubbs.

Hello, hello, how are you?

How are you doing? Jim? You had a successful day? We heard earlier.

Yeah. Yes. Very successful day in this. This having the sun out is wonderful. Yes, it is. I'm wondering, you don't have any in person classes right now. Right, Jim? No, no in person. In fact, you know, it's kind of depressing. I mean, I've got some good students, but I wouldn't recognize him if I saw him on the screen.

It's true. All I can tell you all though, is I might be one of the only people here teaching one section of an in person organic chemistry lab. And five weeks ago, I had one student who couldn't make lab four weeks ago, two, three weeks ago, five. And by next week, half of my lab cannot come to class. Oh, no.

Time to wrap the big project up, which by the way, is super annoying. And so what's what's the reason for them not showing up? Um, the reason the only reason that there could be their testing positive for COVID. I had a student tell me that they had tested positive, right. Well, the one was very sheepish and I will not say his or her name here, obviously, but I had to go. You don't understand prop Mio. I had to go to my boyfriend's grandmother's funeral. I had to. And I'm like, sure I understand your wants to go to.

Why did you go to that field?

Yeah, it's it's complicated. It's complicated. Someone who is not complicated at all is Professor Martin Lindsay. She's extremely simple in the best possible way.

Thank you. I was ready for a call me simple minded.

Although I did mess up, I was gonna call everybody including their middle names. We'll find out yours later on. It's a mystery for now. I can be mysterious for once in my life. Yeah, I think you know, I'm just trying to use words, to have fun.

I like to use words to have fun with this. This morning. I had a problem set and I told my students, you guys are gonna have so much fun. And into the chat. One of my students says you're playing real fast and loose with the word fun today.

rightfully so. Wow. Professor Dave Chow actually, now that I think about it. I don't know if I know your middle name.

I'll keep you guessing for now. Yeah, just like Mark. Okay.

It's mealworm. Okay, it's mealworm

how are you wish I had a cool middle name like that? Or anthrax or something? Just kind of with a little edge to it. You know? We saw your Super Bowl hungry Howie's commercial airing again the other day and man again and again up in points of the screen. He's like, That's Mr. Charles commercial.

Oh, I should send you guys all the photos right about now I am in contact with the grandmother of the baby. I've been getting you know, the baby has a October 31 birthday. Just turn to Okay, kid is going to be a Stone Cold Stunner. Two years old. He is drafted gorgeous. He is like the Brad Pitt. of babies right about now. Give me the grandma's number so that I can draw on the baby?

No, actually, the grandmother had nothing to do with it was the mom that was amazing. She coached the baby had the baby take a nap before during feeding. I mean, she was wonderful. She was like an amazing coach use day. Pardon? What kind of marker did you use? There are special markers for drawing on. You know, they're washable markers on human skin. Yes. And mind you.

I think there's actually a disclaimer on it. And you and you guys be in the chemists Tell me. They say use it on skin older than for nine months old and above.

I mean, babies must have thinner skin. I guess I'll be more absorptive skin. Yeah, yeah.

So there you go. Dave Chow. International pizza market tattooing on baby.

Professor Beth Oljar is here with us today.

Hello. Hello.

Hello. How about that commercial? You were in?

What?

No, but I think about it there have to have at least one Detroit mercy commercial you're in. Isn't there one Beth, like back in the day?

I really hope not. It was one day Visit day. That's fine. I was in a few of those

billboards? Yep. Reach on billboards. As long as you guys aren't milk cartons. I'm not gonna worry. So even not have a picture on the university's website. Well, I'll put one up. How about this one? That'll work.

Actually, I found it interesting Beth, because I was watching on election night during primetime. And they were running a ton of Detroit mercy advertising. I mean, it was still kind of cool to see it there. I've never seen you and Heather on Billboard. I mean, I know that the picture of Dave you're referring to I've never seen you guys on billboards.

That's the old times. Yeah. That's Did you watch any of the returns primetime or later on election night?

Yeah, cuz msnbc has great coverage. And it's all women. Thank you very much. a Republican, a former republican for nappy, who does all the figures and an African American woman. It's totally awesome. And they're all brilliant. Yeah, Joy is good. I know isn't joy and read. Rachel Maddow is a Rhodes Scholar. She's got a doctorate.

So yeah, I did. I've been watching fairly regularly in the evening. Check all that amazing how many commentators on there used to be republicans? That's true. It's true, like Nicole Wallace. Yeah. I mean, she was Bush's in the bush white house and, and she has an MA in journalism from Northwestern, which is a pretty impressive credential. So So. Absolutely. Yeah. They've got a lot of different msnbc has a lot of diversity in there, that people who anchor their coverage and I like that. It's interesting. It's like you guys all watched it on television. I kind of did the opposite. I was on NPR just because I didn't want to get in today with all the graphics that night. Oh, wow. It was interesting. We did. Well,

on a depressing.

Speaking of graphics, we were doing CNN and as recently as very early this morning, we were watching CNN, which has been in perpetual mode by the way of Lisp programming as Election Night in America. I'm looking at my wife and I'm like, it's still 5am on Friday, right.

Professor Heather Hill is here with us today. Wait, you've changed your locale? Yeah. My name. My neighbors. r&b music was getting a little loud. So that's all right. As long as you dive bomb by a drone or something like that, yeah. So that's okay. Yay, the versatility and mobility of laptops. That's right.

On our laps, I'll tell you what, folks, this is a program where you can send us questions regarding anything if you stumped the panel, you win one of our prizes. You can send the questions in a number of ways you can email us at ATP at UT mercy that Edu find us on Facebook and Instagram or listen on your favorite smart speaker asked me to play ask the professor at University of Detroit mercy. I promise speaking of mercy that I will let up the gas after today's episode, but we've got a few more. If you remember, we've left off in the GH corridor of the eponymous rules.

waiting till we get to all comes razor. There we go. Can you verbalize Heisenberg's Uncertainty Principle? observation of a phenomenon changes it? Um, that's that's feeling a little more like Schrodinger. Cat. Okay. All right. I got to fill in for Dan Maggio. Here, what two things can't sit on the teleport pad at the same time or something like that moving molecules. I mean, I got to fill in for Dan on Star Trek geekiness. Here, that's all. Well, you're pretty close. Steve

can't measure the motion of something else. Right. So we cannot know both the position and the momentum of a subatomic particle. We can only know one or the other. Right? Yeah. Yeah.

I wasn't listening for that one. Otherwise, I could totally gotten that.

If that's what it takes.

This is kind of the honesty on on the spatial implications as well.

So um, how about

Douglas Hofstadter is a very, very well known science philosopher and a golden braid.

What's Hofstetter is law. It always takes longer than you expect. Even

blank

sounds like some formula for cooking spaghetti at my house. I actually don't know this. This is good. You'll you'll appreciate this. But it always takes longer than you expect. Even when you take into account Hofstetter slaw. Now that's self referential. Oh Hofstetter. I thought you're talking about the major on Hogan's Heroes. Okay, my bed.

No, there's the major. Oh, the main Oh, yeah, Major. Better yet. wrong one. I'm sorry. Yeah, that's right up there with all truths are subjective. Right. Right. So parental inconsistency.

Another alternative.

How about branzburg law of technology?

The Law states technology is neither good nor bad. Nor is it blank, cheap.

True.

inherently evil or on the right track? Well, you're getting actually I feel like I have to give it to you. Heather grantsburg. Lies. Technology is neither good nor bad. Nor is it neutral. Which is a great.

Interesting.

Yeah, yeah. Okay. Oh, Beth buys it. That's,

that's that's a that's a bit. I mean, there's some definitional questions there. But there's a sense in which that seems true to me. They made they made fun of this, not by using the name but indirectly, Futurama as the doddering old professor is putting something away in his closet labeled death raise.

I love that show. The show is way too intelligent for television. I'm sorry. There are some forms of technology where it takes a great deal of imagination to imagine a good or moral purpose for what you mean like programming VHS player back in the day. Right. But the thing itself doesn't have purposes. Right, right.

Yes. I'd like to know if our English professor has ever heard lems law le M. It's about reading Heather I've ever heard about Lenz law? No. Oh.

nobody reads is the short version of lems law because if someone does read, they don't blank

ink. Right.

Remember, drink? You're, you're you're all putting it together from different perspectives. nobody reads. If someone does read, they don't understand. And if they do understand, they will immediately forget that Slim's law

Okay, wow, that's a fortune cookie and a half. I said it was. Every educator wants to hear that. Yeah.

Oh, man. No. Okay, here's a good one. But nevertheless, no educator

Helen Lewis, is credited with having written the famous feminist scholar Lewis's law. The comments on any article concerning feminism blank,

are made by men.

Almost there. Almost there

are sexist, or misogynistic or anti

Lewis's law is the comments on any article about feminism immediately justify feminism. Those are the rules. Oh, that's good. Okay. It's like in the abominable bride, the Cumberbatch. Sherlock Holmes. The Abominable bride is the episode that where the entire thing is kind of a metaphor for gender oppression. And at one point, Microsoft says, this is a war that we absolutely have to lose. Because we're in the wrong

huh? Yeah, it was really, it was cool.

You're listening to a special edition of Ask The professor in which all six of the professor's 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 UT mercy.edu. Now, let's return to our host Matt Mio with more questions for the panel. How about outcomes razor? I bet Beth can quoted immediately. Don't multiply entities beyond necessity. Yep, that's exactly not say that the simplest explanation is the true one.

Doesn't. Yeah, that's right. That's right. people misunderstand it. Although arguably, the principle about explanations could be a corollary of Yeah, but if you don't need to posit the reality of something in order to explain a phenomenon, don't

we like slender slimmed down metaphysics?

Please, Joey.

I was certain that Beth was going to actually pronounce it I actually have it here just to make you happy but in Latin.

So but you got it of course quoted exactly correct. In England.

Okay, crazy. When that gets me it's like when Sherlock Holmes claims he's doing deduction. It just makes me want to tear my hair out. Well, I believe we've talked about this before Beth, even though I've loved some of them. Our last five presidents have all pronounced the word NUCLEA are nucleolar.

And that's pretty bad. That gets me good. Do that. I don't have a friend whose pet peeve is height, pronounced height. When people say height? And I've heard how Yes, my dog.

That's another good one. Here we go. This is a real word. It's true. Well, it is now. Yeah, it is what it is. Yeah.

You have a prefix and a suffix that dude, that just doesn't make any sense. I know that one of those words, like to impact as a verb that just became a verb because people used it that way long enough. Yeah. Like with referencing, when did that become a verb? When did reference become a verb? Well, that's the way.

Yeah, people just abuse language and then the abuses become the norm. I looked at Heather's pain, and she's just like, yep, there we go. That's our special and magic, we must respect and honor and care of them. It's true. Let's go back to behavioral science real quick. Papers, principle paper, it's principle. Some of the most crucial steps in mental maturation are based not simply on acquiring new skills. But what new thing? Yeah.

applying them, putting them into practice. Really, really close acquiring new administrative ways to use what you already know is what?

Got a kitty there.

Simplified ways of doing what you already knew how to do. Exactly, exactly. There we go. There we go. Let's felines law.

Going by the front of the screen,
beating time.

If I like it, I own it. It really is quite a stunning theory of property rights.

Way Out does John Locke, extra labor was something in order to own it. Speaking of labor, Parkinson's Law, not the Parkinson's disease,

Parkinson's Law, work expands to fill What? your waistline, not the waistline, not the need.

The Void. Mara, we talk about this all the time when we joke that students are just like ideal gases. It filled the space that's noble to them, right to work always expands to fill the time that you've given.

It's a corollary, someone will need to help me out here of expenditure rises to meet income. There's so much about economics. I don't understand and don't care, too, frankly. Well, it is the dismal science. That is right. That is right. Even according to economists. It's the dismal science. I thought that you all would appreciate this one, even though it's a little bit wordy. Has anybody ever heard of Poe's law of fundamentalism? It's a corollary, I would say of Turing's law, or Turing's test, which states that, you know, the moment that someone blindfolded can't tell that they're communicating with a computer, that we would actually have some sort of AI sentience, basically, Poe's law, I'm just going to come out and say it because it's hopefully going to make you all laugh without some sort of emoji, or blatant display.

humor, it is utterly impossible to parody a creationist in such a way that someone might mistake it for the genuine article.

Right? Wow. Oh man, unbelievable. There's a museum where they have dinosaurs with saddles on them because we wrote them No.

Stones. But apparently there are people who actually believe that that happened. Yes. And they tend to be pretty sweet.

About one that I bet you could figure out here seagulls law states, a man with a watch knows what time it is. A man with two watches.

Broken watch knows what time it

Works a Shinola? I missed Batson I think that she hit it on the head. What did you say about always knows what time it is? Actually, it's the opposite never knows what time because Oh, sure, yeah.

Okay, Tobler is first law of geography. Everything is related to everything else. But near things blank, are more related. That's right, are more related to distant things. That's exactly right. Yep. is actually a wonderful treatise, that Professor pusad Venugopal, who we haven't seen once this semester,

is science, technology and race class to describe, frankly, that the use of words is essentially a 100% Regional activity. And the only thing that matters is that people were close to each other, which changes in the information age, etc. Very interesting. Just a couple more of these. I hope you've had fun professors, Windows laws, Wi Fi, oh, wheels law. This is extremely short. And extremely cynical. Communication nearly always fails, except

on really good Wi Fi. When it's a lie. No.

It doesn't, you know, it's communication nearly always fails except by accident. That's the rule.

Wow, these people must have been living in 2020 during a pandemic.

I couldn't help myself because of course, we reaching the end of the alphabet here. in organic chemistry, these rules predict the stereochemistry of pericyclic reactions based on orbital symmetry. Come on Mara

site, so if

any of us orbital symmetry, orbital symmetry of pericyclic reactions, Anybody? Anybody? Oh,

actually, I can give it away by saying the main tributary in Detroit, Michigan is what? main road tributary Woodward? Woodward, it's the Woodward Hoffman rules is what we call no luck. We all had that blank. Look about us. I'm so sorry. Right? Yeah, I'd say that the profs did really really well. I didn't set any sort of bar to these questions or anything, but we had fun even though sometimes it was cynical fun. That's just the way it's got to be.

So let's go to our list before we wrap up here of ATP favorites.

Oh, okay. Tell us a story or direct reference. A practical joke that you were part of or heard about that you really thought was funny?

Do we have plausible deniability? Sure. This happened to a friend of yours. Yes. Okay.

Um, does pudding,

you know, be fully on cubes inside showerheads at Michigan State count.

That

it has to be simple to be a good practical joke, and that is awesome.

That'd be a tasty shower. It was discreet. And I was long I mean, the perpetrators long gone on I 96. By the time it's discovered

Only thing is Did you ever hear anything about Fallout? Anything? No. I did not. I didn't want you know, my I know my mind you supposedly the perpetrator didn't hear a thing. So

that's awesome. Okay, now I did have a horrible one pulled on me though. Okay, do you know those hostess fruit pies? Oh, okay. So I was working this when I was in school. I was working. So screenshot one of the gal said, Hey, I'm going to the store. You want to split a hostess fruit pie with me? So I said sure. So you

She goes to the store comes back and gives me literally cuts it right in half. Okay, Dave, here's your half of the hostess fruit pie. She took out the apple filling, put in spinach dip, and then repack just the apples.

So you bite into it. And it's spinach dip, which is white and green and kind of slimy. And then also I'm like I was hauling tail toward the alleyway to spin it all out. spinach dip. Okay, so you've got your come up and this is what we're here I condition as well as take it to so.

Oh, man, we need to recover from that showerhead incident. Does anybody have anything else to write? Why do I get the feeling I just like, start a new trend UDM dorms. I have a friend who went to a college that had a huge, beautiful fountain out on the front lawn. And they would always pour tide or some kind of detergent into the bleach every year at Yep, one final time. So that if the whole thing would turn into huge bubbles everywhere. Mm hmm. The dry and dry ice is always good to the only time and this is just talking about a practical joke that I did not take part in the only time I got called into essentially the dean of students office as one of the editors for the school newspaper in college at Detroit mercy, supposedly else had dumped a very large amount of Kool Aid into the fountain. Okay, and they did it during the night. So the next morning when you came in, you can imagine what it looked like. So for that week's issue of the varsity news we did we implanted in almost every news story something along the lines of and when the fountain runs red with blood, this will happen.

And I got hauled in it's like, you know, that was really bad taste man. I'm like I didn't do the thing. I'm just like, you're just reporting on it. Right? We don't make the news. Yeah, report the news. Darn right, man, you got serious plausible deniability. I can't let an opportunity like this go by without mentioning that about six years ago. Some of Mark Benvenuto's students took all the shell around one of his handheld X ray spectrophotometers and took the instrument, the \$55,000 instrument out of it, and then dropped it down the stairs in front of him at the top all the way down the empty case. And considering he's the practical jokester of the century, lost it. Video and they had to turn it off because his swearing was so

you can give it Mark but you can't take it because that was brilliant.

Brilliant. Professors. I'm afraid the time has come to say goodbye, Beth. Goodbye, Dave. Mara, Goodbye, Jim.

And Heather.

Oh bye

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 transcribed the Department of Communication Studies in the College of Liberal Arts and education at the University of Detroit mercy Nichols campus were produced and directed by Michael Jason and Brian Maisonville. And our executive producer is Professor Jason Roche. Until next time, I'm your host, Matt Mio.