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SPEAKERS

Announcer, Beth Oljar, Stephen Manning, Mara Livezey




Announcer 00:02

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





00:20


The university tower chimes, bringing another session of Ask The professor the show on which you match wits with the University of Detroit mercy professors in an unrehearsed session of questions and answers. I'm your host, Matt mile. And let me introduce to you our panel for today. We are being joined today by Dave Chow. Pleasure to be here as always, excellent. How were things on the other side of the half block that we live across from each other just as cold, I'm sure just as cold. You use the same money that we do. That's in smaller denominations. That's all we have unmarked. Nice. Nice. What's the any hubbub over on your side of the neighborhood? Dave? Or is everybody just keeping to themselves Where? Well this morning everyone kept to themselves. And you know, like this morning, I wake up at the crack of dawn to shovel I'm like, Oh, yes, yes, absolutely. Because my wife also goes in early. I at least want to clear up the driveway. So she's got to be in at six. I've got to be out there shoveling by five. Absolutely. You know, I'm pulling my hours. Now so I know what's out there for a long time shoveling this morning, Mara Lindsay, because we were talking about it earlier. Are your legs back to room temperature.

 **Mara Livezey** 01:32
I legs are back to room temperature. feeling great. It only took me half an hour. And by the end of it. My legs were tingling.


 01:40
I bet it was cold.


 01:42
Were just it made me start thinking since you were a ballerina. It's still our a ballerina if you had your legs insured or anything like some of the big time dancers do.

 **Mara Livezey** 01:53
You know, ever since I quit. It's just not worth the insurance money on that. That's valuable anymore.

 02:00
Oh,

 02:01
we beg to differ.

 **Beth Oljar** 02:06
For your mind. Yeah,

 02:09
exactly. We just want you to feed the cats.

 **Mara Livezey** 02:13
That's why I'm valuable to them. For sure.



02:16

Yeah, the cats are thinking in their minds. I get out there and like get your blood pumping by clearing the walks. Oh, we can get some food at some point.



Beth Oljar 02:24

Human get to it.



02:26

Yeah. Cat doordash Stephen Manning is here with us today. What's shakin, Steven?



Stephen Manning 02:33

You know this talk about snow shoveling, I have a couple of neighbors who we really haven't had that much snow this year. And but one neighbor I know there's like five houses down got last year for Christmas. What he claims is the best Christmas gift he's ever received or ever would, you know from the Christmas story, he got a snowblower and we get you know, an inch and a half of snow. He's got a baby fire that was all now I'm very grateful. It goes all the way up the sidewalk, including in front of my house. So it works to my advantage. But it's almost like you have one of these things you've got to you've got to fire that thing up when you get the tiniest bit of snow. And it's quite hilarious there now maybe four guys in the neighborhood. They're out there fully bundled up with their machines running up and down the sidewalk. It's crazy. It's crazy. I'm out there with my little shovel. You know.



03:27

Steven, is this like high level stuff? Is this thing running an auger like the giant screw that really throws this? No,



Stephen Manning 03:35

I don't know much about these. I'm sure there's some variation. I saw the guy this morning I was out shoveling my front when he came down the sidewalk as he typically doesn't. I just happen to know his was a craftsman model. That's all



03:48

nice. So people, people love using those that was basically my dad when I was growing up, he had the biggest possible snowblower that you could buy. And I believe it was Craftsman actually. And he would go pretty much the whole neighborhood over and just be super happy about it. Like this is the greatest thing ever, you know? But we don't get snow like we did when I was a kid at least not since 2014. There I said it out loud.



Stephen Manning 04:14

I heard the average average annual snowfall in this area is 40 inches. We haven't had for the interest in a couple of years anyway.



04:22

cumulatively it seems like yeah,



Stephen Manning 04:24

no wonder we had 80 we'd probably 40 but we haven't even we probably had what 10 or 12 this year so



04:30

far. Not maybe not even I don't think Yeah.



04:34

Someone who I don't actually know if they like to shovel snow but who really does is Dan Maggio.



04:40

I love to shovel snow and we have to snowparks with a gas one but we just bought a battery a smaller battery operated one which works great if it's about an inch or two a fluffy snow but not have this snow here.



04:56

Yeah, this was heavy stuff right then.



04:58

It was So, but I do love I love being on the snow. So I grew up, you know, in Erie, Pennsylvania where we I think they averaged 120 inches a year. And like the fact Yeah, yeah, so I yeah, I love the soul. Yeah, I love the snow and love and shoveling and all that. So



Stephen Manning 05:17

you want to trade one of the snowblowers for an espresso



05:24

check with the entire household on that.



Stephen Manning 05:29

Now it could be an additional one of those guys I was talking about. In one block with a snowblower going up and down the sidewalk.



05:38

I tell you what, Steven, I'll help broker this for like a ham sandwich. Dan's gonna ask you for two first round picks over the next. Bottom line that's gonna take



Beth Oljar 05:51

but there'll be picks for curling, you know, so, yeah,



05:55

thank you for chiming in. Professor Beth old jar is here with us today.



Beth Oljar 05:59

Good to be here.



06:00

Excellent. So I actually don't know this, but I have a feeling I'm about to get schooled. Having grown up in Washington State. It's not Is it a snow place? Is it not a snow? It's more of a rain place. Right.



Beth Oljar 06:13

I didn't grow up in Washington State.



06:15

Oh, but but you went to school there.



Beth Oljar 06:17

I went to graduate school there. Yeah. I grew up in Oregon. Okay. No, not a lot of snow. Okay.



06:25

Yeah. In Oregon, doesn't it depend on which side of the range you're on? If I remember correctly?



Beth Oljar 06:31

Yeah. I mean, you're more likely to get snow east of the Cascades, right. I grew up west of the Cascades close to the Oregon coast. So it was a big deal. When we got snow. It didn't happen very often. And very rarely did school close. Sure. So



06:49

school closes pretty rarely around here, too. But that's for different reasons right now. Yeah,



06:58

nowadays now. Yeah. Geez.



07:00

I mean, there are but they have a different feel. That's all I got to say. Right. Professor Jeff boats is here with us today. Okay. So now you went to graduate school, if I remember correctly in El Paso. What's the snow situation down there? Well, no,



07:17

I taught there for a couple years. Before I came here, yeah, it was grad schools, Carnegie Mellon and I went to undergrad right where I grew up about 90 miles east of Dan, so we got a lot of snow too.



07:29

There you go. There you go. I'm getting everything wrong today, but I'm getting everything a little bit. Right.



07:35

Go Go St. Bonaventure. I just gotta say, by the way, they money. Yeah, the Bonnies basketball. They look good this year. Right. Now, not a single senior on the team either. They're gonna be even better next year.



07:46

Oh, wow. That's incredible.




B Beth Oljar 07:48

I know where everybody went to graduate school. I don't know where Mara went.





07:52


I do.


 Mara Livezey 07:55
The same place. Matt went, Oh,

 Beth Oljar 07:57
you went to University of Illinois, right? Yeah. Was

 07:59
it UI you see the UI You see? Okay.

 08:02
It's like Penn State linebackers, Illinois, organic chemists.

 08:09
Awesome. Hey, folks, this is a program you can send us questions regarding anything I know. It'll probably make people angry if I say it, but we'll take a set of questions about famous linebackers. If you stumped the panel, you win one of our prizes. It's in the questions and 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 by asking it to play ask the professor at University of Detroit mercy. Okay. This is a set of questions sent in dear professors. Here's a list of 10 questions about my favorite sport, which is swimming. a passing grade is eight out of 10 who is doing this to us I swear. Good luck. This is a courtesy of Mara's biochemistry class last semester, written by a Shawnee Malhotra so thank you for sending those in. I had a shiny in class last year, too. Let's see what we can do with some questions about swimming. As we are swimming in controversy about these upcoming Olympics, what was the first year that swimming was used in the Summer Olympics?

 09:16
Oh,



09:17

that's gotta be early



09:19

1943



Mara Livezey 09:22

to 1912



09:28

I'm waiting for Beth to



Beth Oljar 09:30

1960s Oh,



09:32

I'm very sorry. You're all dead wrong.



09:34

Oh, it was like 18 something it



09:37

was it was the first ever Olympics had swimming, which was at 96 at 96. Yeah. One of you had, I think an eight in one of your answers. So partial credit.



09:53

Who will make it?



09:54

I think that most of you will be able in the popular culture at minimum to answer this one who has the highest Number of gold medal winnings ever by a single athlete a single set of Olympic Games, Michael Phelps, or Marty Smith, definitely Michael Phelps. And it doesn't say what it was here. But it was it was like ludicrous. Wasn't it? Like nine gold medals or something like that?



Mara Livezey 10:17

Seven, something like that. Yeah.



10:18

Mark Spitz he had seven. Okay,



10:21

Olympics.



10:22

I'm pretty sure it's



Beth Oljar 10:24

six. I remember my first Olympics that I remember watching was 72. So somewhere



10:29

in the 20s, like 20 Oh, yeah, cuz it went to like three or four Olympics and just total.



10:35

Yeah.



10:37

He also holds the record for total number of gold medal winnings by a single athlete at a single games, which I think is, you know, yeah, like eight. Yeah, exactly. And just think about he was here, you know, right before that he was training at U of M. That's right. We're all the good swimmers and ice skaters do right? I did, was I did a Rosetta Stone commercial with him. He was going to Beijing. So



11:01

all right. I remember that. Yeah,



11:03

I did that



11:04

commercial. Cool. What do you know, learning Chinese?



11:07

I Oh, yeah. That's why you hung around with me. Right? Not a chance.



11:12

I always remember thinking of Michael Phelps winning metal after metal after metal and like, there's some people who were on I don't know, you know, like the team handball squad and they practice for like four years and they get one medal at the end and have to, you know, practice the whole Olympics and everything. tough life, tough life.



11:29

That's a huge sport in Europe.



11:31

Yes, it is. It is. Who was the first man who swam the 100 yard freestyle, in basically one minute or less,



Beth Oljar 11:40

Mark Spitz. Hmm,



11:42

Johnny Weissmuller.



11:44

Note the initials are j s. I but I don't have anything beyond the J the last name. Yeah, starts with L e. I was gonna go justice. spacelabs. But that's not gonna work. Well, j s L. It says here. It's j Scott Leary is the name probably from some time ago. Let's see here. How old is the world's oldest competitive swimmer Who? This is cited from Swimming World? magazine.com.



12:15

It wasn't there. Last year was about 40 something. Actually Jeff



12:20

hit the nail on the head. There is 100 year old registered competitive swimmer.



12:26

Oh, not in the Olympics, though.



12:27

No, no. Didn't say Olympics didn't.



12:29

Yeah, sorry.



12:30

It's a super healthy guy who does like biathlon or triathlons or something.



12:34

Exactly. Yeah. And then defining competitive. I mean, we can have competitive Pinnacle. I mean, you know, it's like



12:40

100 and you can finish a triathlon. You won. Yeah. Your first in your category, probably last



12:47

year, you're the only one in the category. For the record, I also would have accepted Tom Brady is the answer to that question. In what year? were women first allowed to compete in the Olympics in the category of swimming?



13:04

1932



13:06

not at 96



13:09

I got to vote 1920 or sometime around



13:12

1940 that I have to go with Beth on this one.



13:17

It was actually swim before they could vote.



13:20

Yeah, exactly. I mean, that's close enough. It was 1912 so that's pretty good. Yeah. 1912 they were probably in there was a bloomers two or something. Some horrible outfit that yes.



Beth Oljar 13:32

Real aerodynamically sound. Oh, yeah.



13:36

Well, that's because of the you know, they were buoyant. They really didn't even swim. That's all me.



13:42

According to a swimming fun facts website that was used to cite for this question. What percent of Americans have never tried to swim?



13:55

It's probably pretty big, but



13:56

38%



13:58

really like dance answers out there.



Mara Livezey 14:00

5060 70%.



14:04

I said said no. No.



14:08

My school growing up. That's



14:10

Beth is close by splitting the difference is 65%.



Stephen Manning 14:14

No way never tried to swim,



14:17

never tried to swim.



Beth Oljar 14:19

I remember being stunned when a friend of mine in grad school who's still a friend of mine actually in the guy who told me that he expected papers by women philosophers to be less good. I remember being stunned when he told me that he never learned to swim. Growing up. I'm like, really? How do how do you grow up and not learn how to swim is



Mara Livezey 14:40

a life skill? Yeah, I was really impressed by my brothers who went to Cornell you have to pass a swim test to graduate. That's right. That's awesome.



14:50

I agree.



Mara Livezey 14:52

Yeah, there's a specific test. You must pass. It's like a 100 yard or 100. Yeah, I mean,



15:00

I had to have it in Detroit Public Schools I had to have in high school.



15:04

Not to say that I was any good at it. But yeah, at least I know how to swim somewhat like a dog paddle. I mean,



Beth Oljar 15:09

for when I learned



15:11

Yeah, sure.



15:13

One class a year and yeah,



Beth Oljar 15:16

I mean, nobody wants to hang out in the kiddie pool with you, you are better learn how to swim in the grown up pool.



15:24

That was what I did. The The truth is that we're pretty spoiled growing up in the Great Lakes region, we can just walk about one mile in any direction and fall into a wet hole. So last question, here. Thanks Shani, for sending these in. These have been great. swimming goggles were constructed from what? welding goggles or something like that heavily. A part of an animal?



15:52

It's not it's not part of the eye, is it?



15:55

No, no.



15:58

It's a like a skin like an like, skin or intestine. And, you know,



16:05

how you see through a part of an animal?



16:07

Yeah,



16:08

well, it could have refined it or something.



M

Mara Livezey 16:10

They put glass in it.



16:11

Yeah, they put glasses on what it is. So it's not that you're looking through a part of an animal. It's that it has a certain shape.



M

Mara Livezey 16:21

It's the anus.



16:24

Oh, no, no. Sadly, each of the eye coverings was a hollowed out miniature turtle shell connected in the middle. Oh, I



16:35

see where you're going with that is totally on the wrong. Oh, thank God.



16:39

So that's, uh, yeah.



Beth Oljar 16:41

I was thinking ivory is what it was meant. Okay, but turtle shells.



16:44

I wasn't going to go like oyster shells or something like that. But Okay. All right.



16:49

Thanks for sending those in the Shawnee.



Announcer 16:51


You're listening to a special edition of Ask The professor in which each of the seven 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 UT mercy.edu. Now let's return to our host Matt Mio with more questions for the panel.





17:19


Okay, dear professors. It's been a while since I've sent questions, but after a long hiatus, I've been motivated to send you some during the good old pandemic. After all, there's

nothing else to do during partial lockdown. And also, these are a few months old. The average summer temperature here in Palm Springs, California is 110 degrees Fahrenheit. So I might as well stay inside and do some question. More importantly, I want more mugs. I have two mugs. I want more money.


 Beth Oljar 17:51
Okay, well, let's get right on that.


 17:53
I've decided to confuse the panel as thoroughly as I can, by writing 10 questions about Franz Kafka. 10 questions are attached, you'll receive a passing score. Ring 11 correctly, very well done very well. This is from Paul Springs, California. Alan IRA who's sent us many questions over the years. Thank you very much, Alan, that's great.

 Beth Oljar 18:18
Kafka. Wow, that's really okay, this


 18:20
is gonna be interesting. Now, these are not too dense, but just dense enough,


 18:24
no will be really dense. So,


 18:27
what subject did Kafka originally intend to study when he enrolled at the University of Prague? Swimming


 Mara Livezey 18:35
Yat Sen. Philosophy,


 18:38
entomology?


 18:41
For the record, he switched from this mystery subject to doctorate in law, he switched to law at the end of it, but no, it was, um, let's see. I want to make sure I get this exactly correct. It's actually what my undergraduate bachelor's degrees in biochemistry, chemistry, chemistry, chemistry, oh,


 M Mara Livezey 19:03
it does say bad chemistry.

 19:05
Oh, I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I'm doing my best here even with my headphones on chemistry was his first love and then he switched to receive ended up receiving a doctorate in law. In the story, the trial What crime was the main character accused of committing hint? This is not a trick question.

 B Beth Oljar 19:26
Murder what I think

 19:30
that's not what it say actually

 19:31
say the crime and the story.

 19:33
That's the correct answer. Wow. So in the end, he was arrested and prosecuted by illegal bureaucracy which never revealed to the character Joseph or the reader the nature of the

crime,



19:46

no matter what he did, because he didn't matter whether we did it.



19:53

Kafka worked several years for an insurance company. What type of insurance did Kafka handle in this job this is pretty interesting.



20:02

Insurance. No kidding.



20:04

I'm like cockroach insurance.



20:06

Oh like lemo emo kind of thing here what what's going on?



Beth Oljar 20:09

homeowners insurance,



Mara Livezey 20:12

life insurance.



Beth Oljar 20:13

That would be even funnier



20:16

insurance. That's so great



20:18

alien abduction insurance.



Beth Oljar 20:20

He did that for sure.



20:23

He did. Workers Comp is what he was working on. Okay, well, it's 11 still got a gun for 11 correct out of 10 Oh my gosh, this is wild. What did Kafka instruct be done with his papers and all of his writings. After his death a instructed his works to be submitted to prominent prog publishing companies be instructed that his works be read at universities See, instructed that his works be translated into English D instructed his works to be donated to the McNichols Campus Library at University of Detroit mercy.



Beth Oljar 21:05

I'm going to go on a limb and rule out D.



21:08

Oh my gosh, this is wild. But how shall I put this on brand? None of the above. In his will. He instructed his executor max to burn, burn.



Beth Oljar 21:23

Instruct that they'd be burned.



21:25

And it says max did not follow those instructions. Just as good to say that they're hanging out in the McNichols library though, that's great. Yeah,



21:36

I'm sure I'm probably had like publishing rights or



21:38

something like that. So according to Wikipedia, who called Kafka, the Dante of the 20th century, another famous author, Dante? Oh,



Beth Oljar 21:51

not the right century. Nisha



21:55

rose. Nope. Last name starts with the letter A. And if I give away the other initials, it'll be pretty obvious.



22:03

Is it all see now? Well, what initial Could you give us that would give it away? x? z? q.



22:13

as Dan goes down the scramble route here. No, I'm the initials are w h. a. Arden? It was odd. Yeah. Wh Oh, I



22:24

see. Okay. Yeah. I didn't consider that. That was a possibility.




22:29


How many times was Franz Kafka married?





Stephen Manning 22:34

Three.


 22:36
I


 22:37
your PI.

 22:41
number would be Kafka. So that is Kafka s. So three is a number that's close to what the actual number is. If someone gives me something else, we can stretch out the error bars or so we're getting too high. But it's not three. Three and

 22:57
a half plus or minus, actually, right?

 23:01
No, he's he's never been married. He was engaged twice. Oh, but never married. Love this follow up. However, he did spend a lot of time visiting brothels. Well, that's that's a nice addition. His fiance's turned into bugs before they had a chance to marry. entirely possible. How and at what age did Franz Kafka pass on?

 23:26
You thinking he was young ish?

 23:29
42



23:30

partial credit. I'll give it to a combination of Beth and Dave because he died at 40 Yeah, he was on it. 40 Oh, what took him?



23:39

Art attack.



23:40

alcoholism,



23:42

hearse. At least partial credit. What took him the hearse? personal credit for alcoholism. No, you know he died a TB. not doing too well. back then. Not good. Not good.



Beth Oljar 23:52

I got a lot of people.



23:55

mask you would have been in a better shape?



23:57

Absolutely. In November 1919, Kafka penned a scathing 45 page letter accusing the recipient of being abusive and hypocritical. Who was the letter addressed to



24:11

his mother?



24:13

I'm giving it to you, Dan. It was his dad. Yeah.

 24:17

Wow.

 24:19

gave the letter to his mother give to his father. Yes. But his mother never delivered the message and instead handed it back to him like most of his works. The letter was posthumously published in 66. Because of course, it didn't get burned after he died.

 Stephen Manning 24:34


Wow. And let me guess he gave it as a father's day present. In the basement of the McNichols library,

 24:42

what's the name and occupation of the main character from the novella, metamorphosis, who woke up one morning to find he's been transformed into a huge insect. It was a lawyer, right? You know, it actually says your best. He was a traveling salesman and cloth merchant, but it's Also as the name first name starts with G, same as former chair of our biology department, but without the Y at the end, right. So Gregor Gregor Gregor samsa was the name of the traveling salesman and cloth merchant.

 25:20

Yes, cloth merchant.

 25:22

I guess I could have read a little further down the list here. I feel bad, but hopefully Jim will forgive me. It says I always try to have a religion question to keep Professor Tubbs what was Kafka's religious identification?



25:38

atheist,



Mara Livezey 25:40

Roman Catholic,



25:41

Jewish.



25:42

It says he was Jewish. Although his writings were secular. His great grandfather was a rabbi. Some Kafka scholars believe the themes in Kafka stories were influenced by a study of the Talmud, his three sisters died in Nazi concentration camp.



25:58

That's what to say Prague had a big Jewish population up to a certain point. And then,



26:02

at some level, it says here, France was engaged in the Zionist movement of the earliest 20th century in Prague. So yeah, there you go. I mean, that was actually 10 questions I made sure to renumber them. So I don't know how we're supposed to get an 11. But we must have been close.



26:19

The answers in binary



26:21

in Kelvin, right. Oh, that's



26:23

awesome. It's a mug. It's been a while since we've had some Professor favorites. So um, you know, it's for some people with a snow day today, either in the modern age that you are or perhaps when you were quite a bit younger. What did you always look forward to most on snow days.



Stephen Manning 26:42

Oh, sledding.



26:45

Of course. sledding,



Stephen Manning 26:47

sledding, logging,



Mara Livezey 26:48

yeah, definitely sledding, but then my mom would make this really delicious white hot chocolate. Oh, put it in this thermos. And when you'd sled and get cold. We come to the car and drink it. Ooh, man. That's awesome.



27:02

Oh, wait. Hot chocolate. That's



Beth Oljar 27:03

I didn't get enough snow that I really ever had anything in particular to look forward to. So I don't really have I don't have an answer.



27:13

Oh, that's okay. Okay,



27:15

I got a real bad one though. All right, I must confess. Did you guys ever go? bumper hitching or shagging?



27:22

Oh, yeah. That's how I used to get home from school. Well, not that far. Geez. Fly.



27:31

cross country skiing. The we used to do that in gym class actually for about a month every year.



27:36

Dan, you grew up in snow country. What was your re on a snowy,



27:41

tobogganing or sledding?



27:44

Or did you guys ever have those dishes? Those little round plastic dishes?



27:48

Yeah.



27:51

We called them sauce off. That's right. That's right. Okay. Well, folks, I hope you enjoy the snow day or whatever kind of day you're listening to this on but I'm afraid that the time has come for us to say goodbye,



28:03

Jeff. by



28:05

Dan. Goodbye, Steven



28:08

by Mara. Enjoy the cold.



28:11

Dave, see you and Beth



28:14

by.



Announcer 28:15

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



28:24

as the professor is produced and directed by Michael Jason and Brian masonville. And our executive producer is Professor Jason Roche.



28:31

Until next week. I'm



28:33

your host Matt Mio

