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SPEAKERS

Beth Oljar, Stephen Manning, Mara Livezey, Michael Jayson, Matt Mio, Dave Chow, Heather Hill

- M** Matt Mio 00:02
The University tower chimes ring in 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 Mio, and let me introduce to you our panel for today. I'm looking right at Professor Stephen Manning. What's shakin, Stephen?
- S** Stephen Manning 00:22
Not much. Don't like the weather - rain, chilly.
- B** Beth Oljar 00:27
Best weather ever. Needs to be like about 20 degrees colder and then I'd be happy.
- M** Matt Mio 00:36
Stephen, I was returning home from dinner at my parents last night, and I couldn't help but remark at 8:15pm Eastern Daylight Time that my thermometer in my car read 80 degrees Fahrenheit.
- S** Stephen Manning 00:49
Yeah.
- M** Matt Mio 00:50
I said "This is out of the ordinary."

S Stephen Manning 00:52
Yeah, it has been nice.

M Matt Mio 00:54
Well, but the rain.

B Beth Oljar 00:55
Global warming.

M Matt Mio 00:56
Yeah. The water I could do without and all the things that come with it. I could do without the water.

S Stephen Manning 01:02
Yeah. I spent a week being jacked up about the Red Sox, of course.

M Matt Mio 01:07
And why not? Absolutely fantastic. Great time for me to tell a tale that I was waiting for the show to mention to both you and Heather. I guess the best that Fox Sports One could do two nights ago was a replay of the Red Sox big win that pushed them to the ALCS. My wife didn't know about that in prime time, though. So I was able to call almost every single thing that was about to happen in the game, including the win. And she didn't catch on until afterwards. It was very amusing.

D Dave Chow 01:37
You should have just told her "Honey, I'm gonna go play sports betting on this and, uh - (laughs)

M Matt Mio 01:43
She's smart enough to press that button that shows the date of the original. She's like "This was yesterday". I'm like, "Ooh".

S Stephen Manning 01:51
Very nice. Even if you didn't like the outcome, there's some great baseball plays throughout that series.

M

Matt Mio 01:56

100%. I think about Professor Heather Hill every time I see, one of my old boys, JD Martinez go into play because chances are some people are going to be coming home, mostly him, in almost all those cases. So I know that you are very excited for the Red Sox to be in the top four here.

H

Heather Hill 02:16

Oh, it's great. It's wonderful. Everybody thought Tampa Bay was gone all the way, and Nope.

M

Matt Mio 02:22

In another place on my screen Professor Beth Oljar's there, and it was a very tender moment between you and your cat.

B

Beth Oljar 02:29

Yeah. Come here my pretty girl. Don't harass your sister. Don't beat her up.

B

Beth Oljar 02:35

You know Bally's 12. She doesn't understand why Mia has all this energy, and Mia doesn't understand why badly doesn't want to play. So I've had to create places where Bally can get away from her on some higher spot - so she doesn't feel quite so terrorized in her own house. I'm sure she's wondering like "What did I do to deserve this? You had to have another cat?"

M

Matt Mio 02:35

(Laughs)

M

Matt Mio 03:01

I love it. And, of course, all of that conveyed with like a single withering glare, right? Isn't that how cats communicate?

B

Beth Oljar 03:08

Sometimes Yeah.

M

Matt Mio 03:09

Someone else I know who's big into cats, I think we just saw something, (or maybe it was before we started recording). is Professor Mara I livezev.

started recording,, is Professor Mara Livezey.

- M** Mara Livezey 03:16
Jupiter did make an appearance, and thankfully my cats are equal in age. But Jupiter is just relentless; and Luna hisses, she growls, she's like "I don't want to play. Don't play with me right now."
- M** Matt Mio 03:31
Is it always right now though, Mara? Is there never a time -
- M** Mara Livezey 03:34
It's always right now. It's always right now, even when Luna instigates it, and then Jupiter's like "Okay, I'm gonna get you now." And Luna's like "Just kidding".
- M** Matt Mio 03:46
va(Laugh) Oh, I love it. I love it. And last, but most certainly not least Professor Dave Chow.
- D** Dave Chow 03:52
Good to be here, as always.
- M** Matt Mio 03:53
Any interesting sounds coming from the neighborhood today, Dave?
- D** Dave Chow 03:57
Other than your place going up? That's about it.
- M** Matt Mio 04:00
Still going, huh?
- D** Dave Chow 04:01
Still going. I can hear it loud and clear. If you want me to check on the progress of your driveway. I can go over there and flog him a little bit for you if you want.

M Matt Mio 04:07
(Laughs) You know, we're gonna keep the flogging to a minimum or zero, on this project.

D Dave Chow 04:11
Okay, all right.

M Matt Mio 04:12
But I do appreciate the sentiment.

D Dave Chow 04:15
Actually one of the builder's trucks - they had their hood up. I think one of their cars shorted out or something.

M Matt Mio 04:20
Oh, no.

D Dave Chow 04:20
So - they're they're working hard.

M Matt Mio 04:22
I just know that the neighborhood is under control, because Dave is peering out the window every once in a while.

D Dave Chow 04:27
No, I just went out to see if I got a check in the mail. That's all.

M Matt Mio 04:29
Yeah. There you go.

B Beth Oljar 04:30
Is the new house gonna be as conducive to Halloween decorations as your current home?

M

Matt Mio 04:37

That's a very good question. I will not lie and say that I haven't thought about that pretty constantly since we actually signed on the house. So -

D

Dave Chow 04:46

Or, Matt, if you want, I can possibly set you up with like a two-day lease on my property over here if you want - so

M

Matt Mio 04:52

Sure. Sure. We could - we could find a way to connect our yards and have some sort of ghost going back and forth on a wire. And who knows what we can do.

D

Dave Chow 05:01

We've actually thought about doing a block party for that time of the year too.

M

Matt Mio 05:04

Sure. Yeah.

B

Beth Oljar 05:04

That would be fun.

M

Matt Mio 05:07

Yeah. Well, folks, this is a program that could send us questions regarding anything. If you stump the panel you win to prize. Send us the questions in a number of ways. You can email us at ATP at UDMercy dot edu. You can 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. I put this set of questions together. It's a total rip, so I'll give credit where credit is due. One of my favorite websites of all time is Mental Floss. It's gone almost completely virtual. And one of their authors, Paul Anthony Jones, put together an absolutely fascinating set of facts, "25 Words that don't have the same meaning as when they were first used". "It's inevitable that words change over time. In some instances, words gain new meanings entirely different from their original definition". And these are definitely everyday kind of words. What we want to do is assume, when you hear me say the word, that you know what it's common modern meaning is, but what do you think it's old meaning could have been? - with a couple clues. So we'll start with "alienate". Alienate, like Alien is derived from the Latin word alienness, which is used to describe anything unfamiliar, or foreign. But what was its original meaning?

B Beth Oljar 06:30
Madness.

M Matt Mio 06:33
That's not it says here.

H Heather Hill 06:34
Psychology?

M Matt Mio 06:35
Uh, for the record, because I think it will help definitely Professor Hill, first usage was mid 1400s. If everybody wants to put on that hat.

H Heather Hill 06:43
Wow!

D Dave Chow 06:44
Ooh, that's a - Alienate. Past tense of an alien eating.

H Heather Hill 06:50
Foreign?

M Matt Mio 06:52
You know, foreign is one of the words that we use now. But this, this was a tough one to start with. What I want you to do is just kind of go one or two steps outside of the modern definition. Its original - its original basically would have been "unconnected", things that aren't related to each other, so that that's a little less negative. And I think that that's the point that Beth was trying to make. I mean, we certainly use it in a very negative connotation.

B Beth Oljar 07:19
Well, and that's why psychiatrists were first called aliennists. Because people with mental illness were thought to be alienated from their true selves, right? So, so shrinks were thought of as aliennists. In fact, there's a great book by Caleb Carr called "The Aliennist", which got turned into a TV series.

M Matt Mio 07:37
I was just gonna say, a very popular modern streaming series. Yeah, absolutely. How about this one?
Everybody knows what ambidextrous means?

B Beth Oljar 07:48
Mm-hm.

M Matt Mio 07:48
Able to use both hands equally well, but that wasn't its original meaning.

D Dave Chow 07:54
Ambidextrous. So - I'm assuming it has something to do with digits or fingers, arms,

M Matt Mio 07:59
You know, that it doesn't.

D Dave Chow 08:01
Oh.

H Heather Hill 08:02
Is it like calling upon spirits, or the spirit world - or something like that?

M Matt Mio 08:07
I kind of like that, Heather, but that's not actually what it says.

H Heather Hill 08:10
I like it too, so give it to me.

M Matt Mio 08:12
Go for it. Go for it. So this was mid 16th century, and it had to do with the legal profession.

D Dave Chow 08:22
Like double jeopardy?

M Matt Mio 08:24
Getting closer, getting closer. It's kind of the original two-faced. So a lawyer that would take bribes from both sides of a case was referred to as ambidextrous. Using your right hand twice is what it meant, because that's really what the word breaks down into. Right?

D Dave Chow 08:43
Gotcha.

M Matt Mio 08:45
So here's my all-time favorite. And I gotta say that in the early morning, when I'm taking my walks around the block, I've already - see if I could get this to catch on - just like Heather with the spirits definition. I think we all know what a bunny is. But a bunny was a nickname of another common animal when it was first used hundreds of years ago. What animal was that?

B Beth Oljar 09:07
Squirrel?

M Matt Mio 09:08
It was a squirrel. That's right, exactly. A squirrel's first derivative Old English was a bun. That was a squirrel. And I believe "squirrel" comes from Greek or something like that. So they were bunnies. Yeah, exactly.

D Dave Chow 09:22
The original Whistlepig.

M Matt Mio 09:25
I knew that was gonna come up, too.

D Dave Chow 09:26



Of course!



Matt Mio 09:28

I think we're all used to the word cheap, meaning low cost, but that wasn't its original usage about 500 years ago. What did it mean?



Dave Chow 09:38

It's an Old English bird call.



Beth Oljar 09:41

sounding like a chicken?



Matt Mio 09:42

"Cheep cheep"



Beth Oljar 09:47

Bird call is a good guess.



Dave Chow 09:49

Does it have something to do with chafing or something like that, possibly?



Matt Mio 09:52

No.



Heather Hill 09:52

Some kind of a rock or something or -



Dave Chow 09:54

Skin disease?



Matt Mio 09:57



Matt Mio 09:57

You're a little closer with "rock". What I would ask you to do is - and it's difficult, right? Divorce yourself from the emotional tie of the word "cheap", and then just go to the bassist form. I believe that some of you know the usage of its form "cheapen". To cheapen something means to ask how much it costs. Does that help?



Dave Chow 10:22

reduce something?



Heather Hill 10:23

Sale?



Matt Mio 10:25

It literally just means "sale". Yeah, it just means to buy something.



Matt Mio 10:28

Or trade. So when you're going to cheap, somebody, you're just gonna, you know, have an exchange. And I believe that obviously, it got a bad rap after you know, a few ways around the block. It's kind of interesting. Nowadays, when we say "we're down in the dumps", we mean that we're gloomy, and in a low spirited mood, but the original dump from which this derives was actually an old tutor English word for something else going



Dave Chow 10:28

Oh!



Heather Hill 10:55

Going to the theater?



Matt Mio 10:56

(Laughs) No, it wasn't.



Heather Hill 10:59

Or - going to a bar?

D Dave Chow 11:01
A Council Of Chairs meeting.

B Beth Oljar 11:05
Going into the moat.

M Matt Mio 11:07
Your clue is that it's probably from an even older Dutch word "d-o-m-p", domp, which I believe was also translated to the damp in English, which means haze, mist or fog. Does that help you?

D Dave Chow 11:23
Like go swimming in the bog? What?

H Heather Hill 11:25
out in the rain?

B Beth Oljar 11:26
So you were in the fence? That's normally -

M Matt Mio 11:30
I mean, you're all, as we were with the Illinois pumpkin thing, circling the correct response.

D Dave Chow 11:35
The trains.

M Matt Mio 11:35
It means to sort of be lost in that moment. You know, like, if you're in the dumps, it's like you're in a fog. You're in a haze. Like, "I don't know what's gonna happen next".

B Beth Oljar 11:44
Oh, it's like in the weeds. Right?

M Matt Mio 11:46
Exactly.

D Dave Chow 11:47
Gotcha.

B Beth Oljar 11:47
Okay.

D Dave Chow 11:48
Gotcha. Okay.

M Matt Mio 11:49
Absolutely.

H Heather Hill 11:50
Again, I like my response better.

M Matt Mio 11:52
There's nothing wrong with your response.

D Dave Chow 11:54
I was thinking about like when Matt first had his basement being pulled together. That's all.

M Matt Mio 11:57
Oh, geez. Unbelievable.

D Dave Chow 11:59
Remember, we were making the suggestion, now's the time to put in that fake plastic skeleton.

M

Matt Mio 12:04

Yes. Oh, absolutely. How about the word "handicap". Folk etymology claims the word handicap from injured soldiers returning home from war, unable to work being forced to beg on the streets with their caps in their hands. In fact, that's completely untrue. Instead "handicap" was originally from what?

D

Dave Chow 12:31

It didn't have anything to do with a race - or betting or anything like that. Did it?

S

Stephen Manning 12:35

a disadvantage?

M

Matt Mio 12:37

Yeah, yeah. I mean, again, I'm surprised. I think we're all just like really good with words that we get bits and pieces. And we're very favored, of course, to have an English professor here with us today. But it actually was an old form of bartering. You could think about it that way. So two goods are being assessed by maybe a third person who would try to make sure that everything was gonna be okay -

D

Dave Chow 13:02

Like a mediator?

M

Matt Mio 13:02

you know, turn something into something else.

D

Dave Chow 13:05

Okay.

D

Dave Chow 13:05

How about - Ooh, this is a very, very common word, "Husband". Husband.

H

Heather Hill 13:11

Like a farmer or somebody -

M Mara Livezey 13:13
Yeah, like tends to animals.

B Beth Oljar 13:15
Right.

H Heather Hill 13:16
Yeah.

D Dave Chow 13:16
Yeah - Animal husbandry. Yeah.

B Beth Oljar 13:19
You can get degrees in it.

D Dave Chow 13:21
Yeah - Man who leaves toilet seat up.

M Matt Mio 13:24
Actually, I think that that's a good one. This is probably the closest we've got with very, very little coming in from the side. It means something about owning a home - is what it actually comes from. And - and I think that that would apply, you know, to having a job, owning a farm, things like that. Yep.

D Dave Chow 13:42
He who has a mortgage.

M Matt Mio 13:44
(Laughs) Exactly. Oh my. How about the word jargon. Jargon was originally a word for what? First major usage was Canterbury Tales. I love it.

D Dave Chow 14:00
-

Ooh.

H Heather Hill 14:02
Is it a soldier? A dance?

M Matt Mio 14:05
So, in modern sensibility, it's incomprehensible language. Right? is what jargon is.

D Dave Chow 14:11
Like babbling. Yeah.

M Matt Mio 14:12
So how about if I tell you it's like May 12. And you live in Metro Detroit and the sun just came up. You're definitely going to hear a lot of jargon.

D Dave Chow 14:26
Traffic?

H Heather Hill 14:28
Like a cockadoodledoo?

M Matt Mio 14:31
Yeah, yeah, it's, it's the twittering of birds. It's like that in comprehensible chattering of birds early in a spring morning, which of course makes perfect sense when it becomes the modern use of the word jargon. But that is straight out of Canterbury Tales. Pretty cool.

D Dave Chow 14:46
Okay.

B Beth Oljar 14:47
Thank you. Chaucer.

M Matt Mio 14:49
Yeah.

M Michael Jayson 14:51
You're listening to Ask The Professor from University of Detroit Mercy. We're grateful to those listeners who submitted questions for today's show and we welcome your questions at ATP at UDMercy.edu. Now let's return to our host Matt Mio with more questions for the panel.

M Matt Mio 15:09
And we are back with some words that don't have the same meaning as when they were first used. How about livid? L-I-V-I-D. Describing something as livid.

H Heather Hill 15:24
Is it "bloody"?

M Matt Mio 15:25
I'm giving it to you. It was a color associated with being bruised. So, yeah, you made a good connection there, Heather. That's awesome. There is a big to furiously angry if you think about it, but you know, being bruised and angry kinda have negative connotations associated with them.

D Dave Chow 15:45
So it's an interesting color, then. Huh?

M Matt Mio 15:48
it's a color. Yeah, it's a color of being bruised.

D Dave Chow 15:50
So it's like purple - blueish - with a hint of yellow on the edges.

M Matt Mio 15:54
Exactly. I think that we should be able to put this one together fairly straightforward. How about "Naughty".

D Dave Chow 16:04
I think it's a perfect word.

M Matt Mio 16:05
100 years ago.

B Beth Oljar 16:07
It is a perfect word.

D Dave Chow 16:09
Yeah. It's a -

B Beth Oljar 16:10
So, what did it originally mean?

M Matt Mio 16:12
Mm-hm. We know that it means kind of misbehavior in the modern sense. But what did "naughty" come from?

D Dave Chow 16:19
It has something to do with the word "not" like "no"?

M Matt Mio 16:22
It does. It does.

D Dave Chow 16:23
Like a negative.

M Matt Mio 16:25
So, it means -

D Dave Chow 16:26
Help. Help. Help.

M Mara Livezey 16:29
Like to have nothing.

M Matt Mio 16:30
It means "nothing". "Nothing" is what it means.

H Heather Hill 16:32
I was just going to say.

B Beth Oljar 16:33
Oh, I see. Not.

H Heather Hill 16:35
Yes. Not.

D Dave Chow 16:35
Yeah.

M Matt Mio 16:35
So this is someone without any morals. You are being naughty. Like you don't have anything. Right?

M Matt Mio 16:44
Wait, wait, I wasn't talking to you, Dave.

D Dave Chow 16:46
Oh, okay. I thought you're making a personal comment. That's all. Morally bankrupt.

B

Beth Oljar 16:51

I'm gonna bear that in mind now, when I want to call someone naughty - that I could be saying that they're lacking in morals. That would be cool.

M

Matt Mio 17:00

How about the word "punk". Ooh, that's got a lot of things attached to it. Punk. No one actually knows where the word punk comes from -

B

Beth Oljar 17:09

Punkin'

M

Matt Mio 17:09

It's earliest meaning in English came from Shakespeare's "Measure for Measure".

D

Dave Chow 17:15

Man, this Shakespeare guy gets around. Uh, Punk?

H

Heather Hill 17:20

Drunk?

B

Beth Oljar 17:21

Yeah. He's a decent writer.

H

Heather Hill 17:22

Does it mean "drunk"?

M

Matt Mio 17:23

Drunk is really close. But actually, I think it's uh -

H

Heather Hill 17:27

Crazy?

M Matt Mio 17:28
What do we say? The oldest profession?

B Beth Oljar 17:31
Prostitute.

D Dave Chow 17:33
Oh,

M Matt Mio 17:34
Yeah, it's a prostitute - is a punk, from Shakespeare's Measure for Measure. However, over the centuries, the word seems to have accrued the whole host of unsavory connotation. Like, I even call my kids punks every once a while.

D Dave Chow 17:49
And a wonderful genre of music. Right? So -

H Heather Hill 17:52
Yeah, when Stephen and I are running, and there's some younger runner out there running faster, we always refer to him or her - well, usually not me -

D Dave Chow 17:59
young punk

H Heather Hill 18:00
"Punk!"

D Dave Chow 18:02
Wait a minute - Is that - Now I - just out of curiosity, is that something older people say to younger people?



M Matt Mio 18:08
Oh, yeah.

D Dave Chow 18:08
It's always on the downward slope, isn't it?

M Matt Mio 18:12
Yep.

S Stephen Manning 18:13
And when we use it, we mean to imply that they're - they're being a little show-offy.

M Matt Mio 18:18
Yes, yes.

H Heather Hill 18:20
And of course, they're not. They're just running.

S Stephen Manning 18:22
We're going considerably slower.

S Stephen Manning 18:24
We occasionally see the UD Mercy track people running from the University up to our neighborhood. And "That punk". They have their shirts off. They have these beautiful bodies, And here we are slogging along like old people.

H Heather Hill 18:25
That's right.

S Stephen Manning 18:26
Hey. Speak for yourself.

D Dave Chow 18:36
(Laughs)

H Heather Hill 18:42
totally true.

M Matt Mio 18:43
"Punk" was pretty popular in the United States, in the early 1900s. It was a petty criminal, but by even the 20s and 30s, it had morphed into "someone who was inexperienced". So it just sort of wanders around this sort of undesirable person motif.

H Heather Hill 19:02
And then punk rock and,

M Matt Mio 19:04
of course

H Heather Hill 19:04
Punk rock, Punky Brewster.

M Matt Mio 19:09
How about the word "thrill". To thrill.

D Dave Chow 19:17
Opposite of naughty? Uh, thrill,

B Beth Oljar 19:21
full of morals.

M Matt Mio 19:24
It says that sometimes, in really old manuscripts, you may actually see the phrase "nose thrills" as in your

nose.

D Dave Chow 19:32
Sniffing, sneezing?

M Matt Mio 19:34
No.

D Dave Chow 19:35
Runny nose, allergies?

M Matt Mio 19:37
Likely Shakespearean, 1500's.

M Mara Livezey 19:40
Like a wart on the nose?

M Matt Mio 19:42
That's - You're getting closer. You're getting closer. Um, it's something that these young punks these days tend to do a lot of with their nose. Does that help?

B Beth Oljar 19:51
Pierce their noses?

M Mara Livezey 19:52
Pierce it.

M Matt Mio 19:53
It's piercing. So if you're gonna thrill something, you're going to punch a hole in it.

D Dave Chow 19:58



Ooh



Beth Oljar 19:59

I don't get the whole nose piercing thing.



Matt Mio 20:03

It's not for everybody. Is it Beth?



Dave Chow 20:05

Or plugs.



Beth Oljar 20:06

It would hurt. I mean, I thought getting my ears pierced hurt, because they don't tell you how loud that gun is going to sound when it goes off right next to your ears. So my immediate impulse was to jerk my head away, right? Which was yeah, not good.



Matt Mio 20:25

Not good. Oh my gosh.



Heather Hill 20:26

The third hole I had was done with a darning needle.



Matt Mio 20:29

Oh my gosh!



Dave Chow 20:30

Ooh!



Mara Livezey 20:31

That's Old School.

- B** Beth Oljar 20:32
Well, we know from Pulp Fiction that, if you're serious about piercing, you have to do with a needle and not with that gun - which goes against the whole philosophy of what piercing is about, according to Rosanna Arquette.
- M** Matt Mio 20:47
Last one here, professors It's a simple one, a good one to end on. It's the word "queen". I think we all know, the queen is married to the king. But in its original usage, what do you think it meant?
- M** Matt Mio 21:02
Mm-mm.
- D** Dave Chow 21:02
second fiddle?
- B** Beth Oljar 21:03
Consort.
- M** Matt Mio 21:05
I mean, getting - getting closer. Frankly, Beth, I feel like I should give it to you. It was a general replacement word for the word "wife" was Queen to start with. So that's how we get to - it's a, I would say modern usage, but to call it modern, I mean it's been around for hundreds of years as the wife of the king, right?
- D** Dave Chow 21:25
Or a chess piece.
- M** Matt Mio 21:26
Okay. It's time for us to go to our favorite our list of Imponderables from the Burroughs family to finish up our episode for today. And let's see here. What shall we ask the professors about?
- D** Dave Chow 21:41
Uh-oh.

M

Matt Mio 21:42

Oh, okay. Now this is pretty specific. What's your favorite memory from one of your childhood birthday parties? Or maybe we just say a childhood birthday that was particularly memorable.

D

Dave Chow 21:58

Not necessarily ours? Oh, okay.

M

Matt Mio 22:00

(Laughs) Okay, make it about yourself.

D

Dave Chow 22:03

Okay, gotcha. Let's see.

M

Matt Mio 22:05

I guess I had the chance to see this ahead of time, so maybe I should start. But I actually didn't have birthday parties when I was growing up. I can think of having like one or two. It wasn't something that I was upset about. You know, I didn't get a bounce house and a pony or anything like that. But my birthday is, as I believe you all know, very close to Halloween. And one year we actually did have a Halloween party that was also a birthday party for me. I think I was in third or fourth grade. And that was kind of fun.

B

Beth Oljar 22:38

Ohhh. I had a toga party for my 17th birthday.

M

Matt Mio 22:43

Nice.

D

Dave Chow 22:44

Wow!

M

Matt Mio 22:46

That was cool.

B Beth Oljar 22:46
It was really fun.

B Beth Oljar 22:47
I know Mara's got this look on her face like "What!"

M Mara Livezey 22:52
17, you said.

B Beth Oljar 22:53
And I looked awesome in my toga.

D Dave Chow 22:58
Okay, we need pictures. We need pictures.

B Beth Oljar 23:01
I probably still have some.

B Beth Oljar 23:03
Yes!

B Beth Oljar 23:04
You won't get to see them.

D Dave Chow 23:07
Okay, Well - Okay, Beth, you do know that never stops me. So I mean, come on. Last week I drew - you know - Zombie Beth with rainbows out of your butt, too. So I mean, I'm not saying nothing.

B Beth Oljar 23:19
So draw me in a toga.

D Dave Chow 23:20
Sure. I can do that. That's easy enough. Okay, birthday, huh? i Okay, for me, I remember one year getting I think, oh, this is gonna sound real bad of me. Packaging wise, there was a brand new Monopoly board. Same game, brand new packaging. I thought I was- You know - the, you know, the rat's patoot. Right there, when I got that brand new Monopoly game.

M Matt Mio 23:43
That's funny.

M Matt Mio 23:43
We played it for hours on end.

M Matt Mio 23:45
I bet you did.

B Beth Oljar 23:47
It is the quintessentially American game, after all.

M Matt Mio 23:51
That's true.

D Dave Chow 23:52
And I think I told you folks before, we used to play marathon sessions of it with the - you know, - the kids down the block. "Okay, it's 5:30. Time to go home for dinner. Write down where your pieces -what pieces you own - how much money you have." We'd continue for weeks on end.

M Matt Mio 24:05
I - There is no way to play Monopoly without it being a marathon session. I mean, seriously?

D Dave Chow 24:11
Well, we also offered credit.

M Matt Mio 24:12
Oh - well.

D Dave Chow 24:13
Now that's what kept the game going forever.

M Matt Mio 24:19
Mara, Have you come up with a childhood birthday memory?

M Mara Livezey 24:24
So I don't have any specific memories of like individual birthdays when I was a kid. I'm not sure what that means about me. But - since I have a summer birthday, I think a lot of the time we'd just like hang out at the pool.

M Matt Mio 24:38
Yeah.

M Mara Livezey 24:39
We belonged to this, like, pool club. So we'd just like go hang out. And, like, that was enough

D Dave Chow 24:45
Okay, now what about food? What did you have for food at those things? Anything memorable? Anybody have like crazy, wacky food?

B Beth Oljar 24:52
A Baby Ruth Bar, perhaps?

M Matt Mio 24:54
Well, Mara had food, but she had to wait 30 minutes after eating before going in the pool.

M Mara Livezey 25:00
That's right

that's right.

M Matt Mio 25:03
Heather.

H Heather Hill 25:06
I don't know. This is a hard one.

M Matt Mio 25:08
It is.

H Heather Hill 25:09
I don't know why this is so hard. Maybe because I'm so old.

M Matt Mio 25:12
Stop.

B Beth Oljar 25:14
Oh, please. You're younger than me. So -

D Dave Chow 25:16
Yeah. We don't have to cut you in half to count the rings yet. Do we?

B Beth Oljar 25:20
Oh, that would be too cruel.

H Heather Hill 25:22
I think there was one year when I was fairly young and my mother's mother put together this like really beautiful sort of box. It seems really beautiful. And it had like, like, different kinds of trinkets and things. Nothing really expensive, but, like stuff that my mother had had when she was my age that my grandmother had still kept, right.

B Beth Oljar 25:43
Oh, That's cool!

H Heather Hill 25:44
Yeah, I wish I still had that now. I mean, I don't know where they - where it all went, but it was just very sweet.

M Matt Mio 25:52
That's nice.

D Dave Chow 25:53
Yeah. Come on, Stephen. I know -

M Matt Mio 25:55
Stephen

D Dave Chow 25:56
Yeah.

S Stephen Manning 25:57
I don't have many memories of either good or bad, necessarily, of birthdays. They were very much downplayed in my family as a kid. I'm wondering why. I can come up with two reasons. My mother was two days older than my dad. One was July 3, one was July 5. And one of my brothers was also July 3 or fifth. So three of the five people had birthdays -

M Matt Mio 26:07
Ooh.

S Stephen Manning 26:07
It was on the long July 5th weekend. We just did what you know, July 5 things. Had a dinner together and fireworks and stuff, but no big deal was made of the birthdays. My birthday is around Labor Day. And I can't remember ever getting a memorable birthday present. But since it was back-to-school time, I

typically got new socks and underwear for my birthday, which is - that pretty much tells you the thrill of my birthday - years growing up.

D Dave Chow 26:52
Did anybody celebrate like their 30? Come on Mara, What did you do for your 30th?

M Mara Livezey 26:57
You forget my 30th was during the pandemic?

M Mara Livezey 26:59
Oh, yeah, well -

M Mara Livezey 27:01
So I stayed at home and didn't see anyone.

D Dave Chow 27:02
Oh!

B Beth Oljar 27:03
Are you that young. Okay. Wow.

M Matt Mio 27:06
(Laughs) Big reveal here.

S Stephen Manning 27:10
My birthdays are better now than they were when I was a kid. In my neighborhood now, there's this enormous party. I mean, it's for like third grade graduations and sixth birthday parties and a huge deal. The street is packed with neighbors and family and friends and it's way outside the immediate family. So -

D Dave Chow 27:29
See ya.

M Matt Mio 27:29
That's true.

M Matt Mio 27:29
Yeah, there's a lot to what you're saying, Stephen, I've mentioned before how my poor sister's birthday is December 21. And just everything gets overshadowed. So my mom would do these half birthday parties during the summer, which was a genius thing. It was just an excuse to get people together. Based on when your birthday is, there's things that happen. What I actually thought of when you were talking, Stephen is when we first moved into our house, a baby was born right after our oldest, and he was born on the fourth of July. And they let this kid ride out, "Hey, you see those things in the sky? That's all for you." They pushed it to like 13 years old. He's like "Wait a second. This is a different holiday." This has been one of our richest discussions ever, but I'm afraid the time has come to say goodbye, Dave.

M Matt Mio 27:37
Mara.

M Mara Livezey 28:14
Good bye,

M Matt Mio 28:19
Beth.

B Beth Oljar 28:20
Good bye.

M Matt Mio 28:21
Heather,

H Heather Hill 28:22
Bu -bye.

M Matt Mio 28:22
and Stephen.

 Stephen Manning 28:23
Goodbye.

 Matt Mio 28:24
And now these words.

 Michael Jayson 28:26
You can email Ask The Professor at [ATP @ UDMercy.edu](mailto:ATP@UDMercy.edu), or visit the Ask the Professor Facebook page

 Dave Chow 28:35
Ask The Professor is produced and directed by Michael Jayson and Brian Maisonville, and our executive producer is Professor Jason Roche. Until next week, I'm your host Matt Mio