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Ken Burns, American Revolution, Civil War, Jazz, Vietnam War, Baseball, Documentaries, Christmas movies, Home Alone, Die Hard, Nutcracker, Christmas traditions, holiday questions, Christmas tree, holiday trivia.

SPEAKERS

Announcer, James Tubbs, Erin Bell, Dave Chow, Beth Oljar, Matt Mio, Dan Maggio, Danielle Maxwell

M

Matt Mio 00:01

The University tower chimes ring in another session of Ask the Professor, the show in which you match wits with 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. Recently humming the Mission Impossible theme song, it's Professor Beth Oljar.

B

Beth Oljar 00:20

That's because every time you say "five seconds from mark", all I can think of is "This tape will self destruct in five seconds"

D

Dave Chow 00:29

I'm waiting for a cell phone to just go up in flames

B

Beth Oljar 00:31

which is why I always do the Mission Impossible theme.

M

Matt Mio 00:33

I think that that's great. It's one of the greatest TV themes of all time. It's possibly number one. I mean seriously,

M

Matt Mio 00:39

It's spectacular.

B

Beth Oljar 00:39

and Matt and I are watching Ken Burns' American Revolution and absolutely adoring it.

B

Beth Oljar 00:40

So good.

J

James Tubbs 00:46

I've got them all recorded.

M

Matt Mio 00:48

12 hours.

D

Danielle Maxwell 00:48

I've never even heard of this.

J

James Tubbs 00:50

a lengthy sitdown

M

Matt Mio 00:51

You will get drawn in. He has a way with the documentary, Ken Burns.

D

Dave Chow 00:54

And mind you, the thing that I like about it, it wasn't just about Washington and Jefferson and all the big players -

B

Beth Oljar 01:00

No

J

James Tubbs 01:00

It's not the usual voices

B

Beth Oljar 01:01

lots of women's history. You know, we were a melting pot, right from the beginning. That wasn't some sort of 20th century -

M

Matt Mio 01:08

right

D

Dave Chow 01:08

Construct

B

Beth Oljar 01:09

Yeah.

M

Matt Mio 01:10

Professor Dan Maggio is here with us, who will now tell us what his favorite Ken Burns documentary is.

D

Dan Maggio 01:16

Oh, no.

M

Matt Mio 01:18

Is it hard?

D

Danielle Maxwell 01:19

There's multiple.

B

Beth Oljar 01:20

The jazz one was great.

M

Matt Mio 01:20

There's tons.

D

Dan Maggio 01:23

It might be the baseball -

M

Matt Mio 01:26

Yeah

B Beth Oljar 01:26

The Civil War (episode) was great. Vietnam War (episode) was great.

D Dan Maggio 01:30

I would say the Vietnam War one was excellent. But I'd say that baseball, - even though I don't really like baseball -

D Dan Maggio 01:38

I just enjoy his presentation.

M Matt Mio 01:38

Sure,

D Dave Chow 01:39

His storytelling.

M Matt Mio 01:40

Leslie tells me the other day, because we started watching American Revolution, she's like, "I don't kind of like the baseball one". And I just hesitated for a moment. I go, "What you don't like is re watching it on MLB Network, when it gets interrupted every minute and a half with commercials". She goes, "You're right". You want to go back and watch it on PBS, because you can watch two straight hours without a single interruption.

B Beth Oljar 02:04

I haven't watched that one. I'm not a huge baseball fan. Plus, I agree that, you know, one of Burns's gifts is that he tells iconic stories. He tells stories about things that are iconically American, like jazz. Didn't he do one on prohibition?

M

Matt Mio 02:19

It could have been the short one.

J

James Tubbs 02:21

Yes, he did.

D

Dan Maggio 02:21

He did one on the Dust Bowl too.

M

Matt Mio 02:24

And he did one on the Holocaust recently. It was very short, but it was spectacular.

D

Danielle Maxwell 02:29

I've literally never heard of this man until five minutes ago.

M

Matt Mio 02:32

I mean, we got to go back to the Civil War. We're going to start there.

B

Beth Oljar 02:35

He looks like McCartney, actually.

M

Matt Mio 02:36

Yeah.

D

Dave Chow 02:37

And he talks with a very soft voice.

J

James Tubbs 02:39

Yeah

B

Beth Oljar 02:40

I have the US and the Holocaust on Blu Ray, actually.

M

Matt Mio 02:43

So good point, Dan, but I think that it's very special to be able to watch it all the way through. When I have a historian wife, and she's like, "This is coming out". I'm like, "You already know that I'm signing up for it". Like, she's like, "Oh, I get to do things sometimes", you know.

B

Beth Oljar 02:59

Well, I know she really loved the Roosevelts one, because she has family relations that fought with Teddy.

M

Matt Mio 03:04

Actually, she knew the plots to last night because she is obsessed with listening to the voices, because they're all celebrities, but you never see their faces, right? So, oh, "Tom Hanks is playing this person - " And my wife is actually descendant from Dr Benjamin Rush, and he was mentioned in it last night.

B

Beth Oljar 03:05

I think that Edward Norton was doing -

M

Matt Mio 03:06

You think it's Edward Norton.

D

Dave Chow 03:11

Oh, so I was hoping she was related to Tom Hanks.

M

Matt Mio 03:30

Well, you know, not everybody can -

D

Dave Chow 03:33

Yeah.

M

Matt Mio 03:33

Professor Jim Tubbs is here with us today.

J

James Tubbs 03:36

Yeah.

M

Matt Mio 03:37

(Laughs)

J

James Tubbs 03:38

I think my favorite is still the Civil War

M

Matt Mio 03:41

The Civil War

J

James Tubbs 03:42

I like the way he humanized everybody's perspectives.

M

Matt Mio 03:45

That's right.

J

James Tubbs 03:46

Because you don't usually see that in documentaries. You don't see that much attention paid to it.

J

James Tubbs 03:48

And being the descendant of people who fought on both sides, descendant of persons who fought on both sides of the Civil War, well, and having been raised in the south

M

Matt Mio 03:48

Right

M

Matt Mio 04:02

Sure

J

James Tubbs 04:02

but from an early age, I didn't really think it would have been a good idea had the south one.

B Beth Oljar 04:11

Although they did have the better military minds

J James Tubbs 04:13

they did have some good military minds.

M Matt Mio 04:16

It did. Wasn't enough, though, wasn't enough.

B Beth Oljar 04:18

Well, no, I mean -

J James Tubbs 04:20

The resources they had were not enough.

B Beth Oljar 04:22

yeah. I mean, when the North can fight a war of attrition,

M Matt Mio 04:25

exactly,

J James Tubbs 04:25

Had they had the hardware and the economic wherewithal that the North had, I think it would have been a different -

B

Beth Oljar 04:32

and just the troops. Yeah. I mean,

M

Matt Mio 04:34

See, what an academic pursuit here. Professor Erin Bell is here with us today, and we're very happy for that.

E

Erin Bell 04:40

I'm not watching anything academic right now.

M

Matt Mio 04:43

But you do watch birds.

E

Erin Bell 04:46

I do. I watch a lot of birds. I just returned from Puerto Rico, and I saw some really awesome birds there.

J

James Tubbs 04:53

How was the conference?

E

Erin Bell 04:55

Oh, yeah, the conference.

M

Matt Mio 04:56

(Laughs)

 **Erin Bell 04:58**

It was actually really excellent. So, it was the National Women's and Gender Studies conference, and I went with Dean Jocelyn and Professor Heather Hill and our friend Professor Stephen Manning as well. It was great. The conference was really excellent. I will say it's hard to sort of focus in on conferencing when it's 86 degrees and sunny, and there's birds and a national rainforest park. But we caught up with a group of feminist Jesuit scholars from sort of the universities all around the country, and that was really super special. But 10 out of 10, I recommend El Yunque National Park.

 **Matt Mio 05:37**

Nice.

 **Beth Oljar 05:38**

My husband had a great time in Puerto Rico. He said San Juan is gorgeous.

 **Danielle Maxwell 05:41**

It's gorgeous. Yeah, it is

 **Erin Bell 05:43**

It was my first time. It was really splendid. Yeah

 **Matt Mio 05:46**

Cool.

 **Dave Chow 05:47**

I like the rum. Oh, sorry.

D Dave Chow 05:49

Professor Dave Chow is also here with us.

D Dave Chow 05:51

Pleasure to be here, as always.

M Matt Mio 05:52

Was the last national forest you visited in Garden City?

D Dave Chow 05:55

No,

M Matt Mio 05:55

Oh, okay.

B Beth Oljar 05:57

It was Redwoods in California, wasn't it?

D Dave Chow 06:00

Yeah, Avenue of Giants, Muir Woods, all that.

M Matt Mio 06:00

Okay, very nice, very good. I'm just trying to do my Clawson joke with a little different flavor.

D Dave Chow 06:08

I was gonna say, we could go to the dog park in Berkley. (The professors laugh) Just not the same.

M Matt Mio 06:12

Just not the same. Not many birds there, to be honest. Last, but certainly not least, Professor Danielle Maxwell is here. I will not ask you what your favorite Ken Burns documentary is, but I hope you have an answer to that question after you - Let's see you probably literally have to watch, like, 1000 hours.

D Danielle Maxwell 06:30

Well, you know, I have a very long flight coming up.

M Matt Mio 06:33

You do. That's perfect.

D Danielle Maxwell 06:35

So I can download that and watch on my very long flights.

M Matt Mio 06:38

There you go. That's a great idea.

B Beth Oljar 06:39

The American Revolution one is 12 hours. I'm sure the Civil War was 12 hours.

D Danielle Maxwell 06:45

I'll be in the air about 22 hours, including stops as well. I mean, there are layovers

B Beth Oljar 06:49

Are you going to China or Australia or - ?

D Danielle Maxwell 06:52

Hawaii - for a conference, for work. I'm going to Hawaii for work, but there's -

B Beth Oljar 06:56

How is that 22 hours?

D Danielle Maxwell 06:57

There's like a six hour layover in Seattle.

E Erin Bell 06:59

Who's having their conferences in Hawaii and tell me more.

D Danielle Maxwell 07:02

Yeah, chemistry conferences happen in Hawaii. And I try to get Matt to go, but he cannot go, but he's an author of the thing that we're going to be presenting. And by we, I mean me, I'm presenting it .

J James Tubbs 07:15

Which island?

D Danielle Maxwell 07:15

Oahu



James Tubbs 07:15

Oahu.



D Danielle Maxwell 07:15

It's right on Waikiki Beach. And I give my presentation in the first session on the first day. And so does my husband



James Tubbs 07:21

So your footloose and fancy free after that,



D Danielle Maxwell 07:23

Maybe



D Dave Chow 07:24

I'll send you my shopping list.



M Matt Mio 07:25

There you go.



J James Tubbs 07:26

Yeah, he needs some Tiki equipment.



D Danielle Maxwell 07:29

I have free baggage, so I can definitely bring things back.

D

Dave Chow 07:32

Oh, not the size I'm thinking of. (The professors laugh)

J

James Tubbs 07:34

He sent me to a particular bar in Honolulu that was closed for remodeling.

D

Danielle Maxwell 07:38

Send me ideas. Yes, Dukes. I've been to Dukes.

D

Dave Chow 07:43

I can do that too. I'll send you plenty.

D

Danielle Maxwell 07:43

Thank you. Thank you,

M

Matt Mio 07:43

Folks. This is a program where you can send us questions regarding anything. It's been a while since we've had some Tiki questions. If you stump the panel, you'll receive a brand new edition of the Ask the Professor coffee mug and the autographed photograph of the professors. If you don't stump the panel, we'll send you the autographed photograph. You can send us the questions in number of ways. You can email us at ATP, at UD mercy.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. "Dear professors, I heard there was a call for holiday questions, so we've included a dozen for you to use. I can't take all the credit for these, as the family gets in on the contributions to your show. We hope they prove challenging, thought provoking and fun. Please enjoy. Warmest greetings from Valencia, California, Frank and the Family Burroughs"

J

James Tubbs 08:38

Isn't it wonderful to think that a whole family listens to us

D Danielle Maxwell 08:42
sitting around by the fire listening to us

M Matt Mio 08:45
Absolutely

D Dave Chow 08:45
It's not the Mansons

B Beth Oljar 08:45
It might make us wonder about their mental health, but - (The professors laugh)

M Matt Mio 08:51
Who wrote the music for HOME ALONE?

J James Tubbs 08:54
Oh my.

B Beth Oljar 08:55
John Williams.

M Matt Mio 08:57
John Williams, yeah, the greatest of all time. Absolutely.

B

Beth Oljar 09:00

You know, He said - I just saw this YouTube thing about "12 facts you didn't know about Schindler's List". And apparently, when Spielberg went to Williams to score it, he said, "You need a better musician for this. I am not up to this film". And Spielberg's like, "Yeah, but they're all dead John, so, c'mon"

J

James Tubbs 09:24

and he did a great job capturing Eastern European musical things.

D

Dave Chow 09:29

The flourishes and all that.

M

Matt Mio 09:30

Right

J

James Tubbs 09:31

Yeah

M

Matt Mio 09:32

In the Christmas Story movie, Ralphie's secret decoder ring solved a message. What did it promote?

J

James Tubbs 09:38

Drink your Ovaltine.

B

Beth Oljar 09:40

Don't forget to drink your Ovaltine.

E

Erin Bell 09:42

I saw that at the theater, at the Main Theater

M

Matt Mio 09:45

Aww, the Main?

E

Erin Bell 09:46

Yeah, R-I-P Main.

D

Dan Maggio 09:46

You could go see it at the Redford Theatre.

D

Dave Chow 09:51

You could see it at the Old Redford. That's absolutely right.

D

Dave Chow 09:54

You've gotta wear your pink onesie, though,

B

Beth Oljar 09:57

The bunny onesie? Did Easter bunny.

D

Dave Chow 10:01

I got a onesie once for a white elephant gift.

M

Matt Mio 10:04

What were the four Academy Award nominations that the Bruce Willis movie Die Hard earned? Everybody knows it's a Christmas movie. I will actually say, if you can get even one of them, that's good.

D

Dan Maggio 10:18

Cinematography.

M

Matt Mio 10:19

No cinematography

D

Dave Chow 10:22

Sound editing.

M

Matt Mio 10:22

Yeah, I've got sound editing,

B

Beth Oljar 10:24

Production design, special effects?

D

Danielle Maxwell 10:25

Costumes

M

Matt Mio 10:27

so I've got sound editing, and I haven't heard any other one that was there.

J

James Tubbs 10:30

Special effects

D

Dave Chow 10:30

Yeah

M

Matt Mio 10:31

Film editing

J

James Tubbs 10:32

okay

M

Matt Mio 10:33

visual effects, and sound mixing -

D

Dave Chow 10:38

Nakatomi Towers does not come down easy. So, I mean,

J

James Tubbs 10:41

It's hard to imagine all these things as being that separate categories

D

Danielle Maxwell 10:45

Sound editing and sound mixing should go together.

J

James Tubbs 10:47

Well, I know there's a difference between, like, the best theme song and the best overall score.

D

Danielle Maxwell 10:53

Oh yes, that's a clear difference.

M

Matt Mio 10:54

Yep.

E

Erin Bell 10:54

Danielle, have you seen that movie yet?

D

Danielle Maxwell 10:56

Die Hard?

D

Danielle Maxwell 10:57

I have, but I have not seen Shindler's List. So I'm adding that to my mental list.

E

Erin Bell 10:57

Yes

E

Erin Bell 11:01

I only watched it for the first time last year.

D Danielle Maxwell 11:04

Same. Yes.

E Erin Bell 11:06

Well, Die Hard. "Come out to the coast. We'll get together. Have a few laughs".

J James Tubbs 11:10

I know people who claim that that's their favorite Christmas movie

M Matt Mio 11:13

Absolutely

B Beth Oljar 11:15

Drew and I can't watch it on Christmas Eve anymore, because it's actually a pretty long movie, and we find ourselves getting tired. We have to do it like earlier in the day.

M Matt Mio 11:24

Oh my gosh.

B Beth Oljar 11:25

Do Peanuts and Grinch

M Matt Mio 11:27

Who voiced the character of Jack Skellington in The Nightmare Before Christmas.

B Beth Oljar 11:33

Johnny Depp?

D Dave Chow 11:34

No, Danny Elfman.

M Matt Mio 11:36

Danny Elfman was his singing voice, but his speaking voice was different. It is a trick!

D Danielle Maxwell 11:47

Tim Burton? Did he do it himself?

M Matt Mio 11:48

No

E Erin Bell 11:48

Someone spooky?

D Dave Chow 11:48

It was somebody's son. I'm trying to remember

D Danielle Maxwell 11:49

somebody's son.

M

Matt Mio 11:50

I would say -

J

James Tubbs 11:50

Most people are

D

Dave Chow 11:51

except for the women

D

Danielle Maxwell 11:53

You're usually someone's daughter or son

M

Matt Mio 11:56

He was a relatively famous - 1993, right, fall of 93 - a relatively famous, you know, journeyman actor, young actor of that time. Initials CS.

M

Matt Mio 12:07

Chris

M

Matt Mio 12:08

That's correct

D

Dave Chow 12:09

Oh, crud

D Danielle Maxwell 12:10

Chris O' crud, my favorite actor (Laughs)

D Dave Chow 12:14

Yes

M Matt Mio 12:14

It was Chris Sarandon, okay,

E Erin Bell 12:19

someone's son.

B Beth Oljar 12:22

He's Count Rugen in Princess Bride

M Matt Mio 12:26

That's right. According to the Guinness Book of World Records, what Christmas movie did they recognize as the "First all, digital capture film".

D Dave Chow 12:37

Oh, Polar Express.

M Matt Mio 12:39

It was. Nightmare fuel, The Polar Express. That movie is creepy as heck.

 Erin Bell 12:45

Yeah, it really is.

 Matt Mio 12:47

Yeah.

 Dave Chow 12:47

Absolute cringe.

 Matt Mio 12:48

What Christmas movie was Vincent Price's - This is stretching in a lot of different ways. What Christmas movie was Vincent Price's final feature film role.

 Erin Bell 12:59

Oh, Edward Scissorhands.

 Matt Mio 13:00

Edward Scissorhands, yeah. And not because I don't think it's a Christmas movie, but people do the Die Hard thing if it's happening at Christmas.

 Dave Chow 13:08

Yeah, that counts.

 Matt Mio 13:08

Gremlins. Is Gremlins a Christmas movie? It kind of is, you know,

D

Dave Chow 13:13

like Batman,

B

Beth Oljar 13:14

filmed in Astoria,

M

Matt Mio 13:15

Yeah. Who played Papa Elf in the Will Ferrell movie ELF?

D

Dan Maggio 13:20

Bob Newhart

E

Erin Bell 13:21

Your guy. Jon -

M

Matt Mio 13:23

Bob Newhart,

E

Erin Bell 13:24

Yeah, I'm like "Jon Stewart". I have brain fog.

B

Beth Oljar 13:26

One of the funniest people who ever lived.

M

Matt Mio 13:29

Really, really funny. The Charlie Brown Christmas special had a corporate sponsor that used to be part, actually, of the animation. It was cut out since it's been traded amongst the different TV stations. What was it?

D

Dave Chow 13:46

Was it like Dolly Madison?

M

Matt Mio 13:48

No, but Peanuts was used to sell Dolly Madison, yep, but it wasn't. So there was a scene - this kind of gives it away = where the boys were walking alongside of a wall that had cans on it, and kids were throwing snowball knocked the cans.

D

Danielle Maxwell 14:04

Coca Cola?

M

Matt Mio 14:07

It was Coke.

D

Danielle Maxwell 14:08

I was gonna joke and say it was an Absopure sponsored - Detroit Mercy sponsors -

D

Dave Chow 14:09

Oh, okay, yeah, we kind of knew it wasn't Budweiser. So, I mean -

B

Beth Oljar 14:13

No, but Coke had those famous ads, right? "I'd like to teach the world to sing"

M

Matt Mio 14:18

Mm-hm. This movie, set around a Christmas dance, featured the actors Steve Gutenberg, Daniel Stern, Mickey Rourke, Kevin Bacon, Timothy, Daly and Ellen Barkin.

B

Beth Oljar 14:31

Cacoon

M

Matt Mio 14:32

That's a good guess, but that wasn't centered around a Christmas dance.

D

Dan Maggio 14:40

Around a Christmas dance?

M

Matt Mio 14:44

It says "This movie, which is set around a Christmas dance, featured Steve Gutenberg, Daniel Stern, Mickey Rourke, Kevin Bacon, Timothy Daley and Ellen Barkin. It's a single word. Starts with the letter D, and it was a pretty popular movie of the time. I want to say the 80s. I. Well, it's got Kevin Bacon in it. The movie is DINER is what it is.

D

Dan Maggio 14:44

Oh, DINER

M

Matt Mio 14:45

Mm-hm

D

Dave Chow 14:46

I don't remember a Christmas dance either.

D Dan Maggio 14:56

Yeah, I don't associate that with Christmas.

M Matt Mio 15:09

It's just interesting, you know. What is the highest grossing Christmas film of all time?

D Dave Chow 15:15

Grinch?

D Danielle Maxwell 15:15

Miracle on 34th Street

M Matt Mio 15:17

I mean, Dave hit the nail on the head. It's THE GRINCH from 2018, with Benedict Cumberbatch and Rashida Jones. That was \$540 million for the animated Grinch.

J James Tubbs 15:28

Wow.

M Matt Mio 15:29

Yes, and that, for the record, was fine, but there was nothing special about it. As you can hear from the truck backing up in the parking lot.

D Danielle Maxwell 15:37

Oh, they parked right behind us. Fantastic.

D Danielle Maxwell 15:39

Why not just watch the original cartoon?

M Matt Mio 15:39

Seriously.

B Beth Oljar 15:39

With Boris Karloff.

B Beth Oljar 15:39

Yeah, I like the cartoon

D Dave Chow 15:42

Yeah.

B Beth Oljar 15:44

Plus you get Max

J James Tubbs 15:46

with the ominous sounding poetry,

D Danielle Maxwell 15:49

I can do my hair look like Cindy Lou Who.

J

James Tubbs 15:51

Can you?

D

Danielle Maxwell 15:52

I can

B

Beth Oljar 15:53

who was no more than two

M

Matt Mio 15:54

Yep. In what Christmas movie did the classic song Irving Berlin's White Christmas make its debut,

B

Beth Oljar 16:01

Holiday Inn.

M

Matt Mio 16:02

Holiday Inn is the correct answer.

J

James Tubbs 16:04

Then again, in White Christmas

M

Matt Mio 16:06

Exactly

J

James Tubbs 16:06

later.

M

Matt Mio 16:07

In what Christmas movies would you find he Sticky Bandits and who -

D

Dave Chow 16:12

Home Alone

M

Matt Mio 16:12

And who were the actors that played them? Yeah, that's kind of interesting.

B

Beth Oljar 16:16

Joe Pesci is one of them, right? I've never seen Home Alone

D

Danielle Maxwell 16:19

It is so good.

D

Dan Maggio 16:21

We went through this before. I can't believe you've never seen Home Alone.

J

James Tubbs 16:21

Oh, really? You'd love it.

M

Matt Mio 16:21

It is one of my top three movies of all time.

J

James Tubbs 16:21

Yeah, it's a great movie

D

Danielle Maxwell 16:21

Fantastic.

D

Dave Chow 16:23

Well, you and Drew have a movie now?

E

Erin Bell 16:30

Yes

M

Matt Mio 16:31

It's odd though, I'm not sure about "sticky bandits". They were the "wet bandits". They turned the water on, and they would leave the houses after they would take all the stuff. So, I mean -

D

Danielle Maxwell 16:41

They did get covered in feathers and tar at one point, which made them the sticky bandits.

M

Matt Mio 16:45

They were sticky at some point.

 Erin Bell 16:46

In Home Alone 2, did they like have a new -

 Dave Chow 16:48

a new moniker?

 Erin Bell 16:50

Yeah

 Danielle Maxwell 16:51

They might have.

 Matt Mio 16:52

Maybe. We know one thing that happened in Home Alone 2. The President appeared in it.

 James Tubbs 17:00

Yes. "It's that way, kid"

 Matt Mio 17:03

"Professors, attached, please find my annual set of Christmas questions. I've tried to include a variety of questions that would appeal to everyone on the panel. 18 out of 25 is passing. Merry Chistmas and Happy New Year to you all". This is, of course, our good friend, Holly Berry of Detroit, Michigan.

 James Tubbs 17:19

Thank you.

M

Matt Mio 17:20

What does the X in Xmas stand for?

J

James Tubbs 17:24

It's the Christus. It's the Greek for CH.

D

Dave Chow 17:28

It's the Greek letter CHI, which means Christ

D

Dave Chow 17:32

Chai latte. (Laughs)

D

Dave Chow 17:39

Where is the world famous Christmas tree placed in New York City?

D

Danielle Maxwell 17:43

Rockefeller Center

M

Matt Mio 17:44

At The Rock. That's right.

D

Dan Maggio 17:46

I guess not Times Square.

M

Matt Mio 17:47

What plant's berries are often white and traditionally hung over doorways?

J

James Tubbs 17:51

Mistletoe.

M

Matt Mio 17:52

They're also extremely poisonous.

J

James Tubbs 17:54

Yep

M

Matt Mio 17:55

Yep. Which two of Santa's reindeer names come from weather phenomenon?

J

James Tubbs 17:59

Blitzen.

M

Matt Mio 18:00

Yeah, Blitzen means lightning,

D

Dave Chow 18:03

Foggy,

D Danielle Maxwell 18:04

Is Comet one?

M Matt Mio 18:05

Nope

D Danielle Maxwell 18:05

No, not weather?

D Dave Chow 18:06

I wouldn't say it's weather, but there is a comet coming to our solar system right now

D Danielle Maxwell 18:10

Comets can fall in the sky and -

J James Tubbs 18:12

Dasher, now Dancer, now Prancer -

D Danielle Maxwell 18:14

now Vixen, Comet Cupid, Donner and Blitzen.

D Dave Chow 18:16

So Donner is a Americanization of the original translation, which was Dunder, which is Thunder. Thunder and Blitzen means thunder and lightning, which makes sense

B

Beth Oljar 18:27

not a reference to the Donner party.

J

James Tubbs 18:31

Yeah, that's not a good Christmas image.

D

Danielle Maxwell 18:34

Rudolph too, but -

D

Dave Chow 18:35

Showers the reindeer doesn't work, you know.

M

Matt Mio 18:37

What holiday drink is sometimes called, milk punch?

D

Danielle Maxwell 18:41

Eggnog?

J

James Tubbs 18:42

Eggnog.

M

Matt Mio 18:42

Let us never bring that up ever again. My sister is obsessed with eggnog, and her name is Megan, so we call her megnog for pretty much the entire season.

J

James Tubbs 18:43

I have great eggnog recipe.

M

Matt Mio 18:54

and she can just drink it all because no one else in the family wants to even look at it.

B

Beth Oljar 18:58

Does she mind being called Megnog?

M

Matt Mio 19:00

She doesn't. We have lots of nicknames for her.

B

Beth Oljar 19:02

Oh, okay

M

Matt Mio 19:04

mostly diminutive.

B

Beth Oljar 19:05

I had lots of those too.

M

Matt Mio 19:06

Yep. To what city was Kevin McAllister's family traveling in the original Home Alone?

D Dan Maggio 19:13

Paris.

M Matt Mio 19:14

Paris

E Erin Bell 19:15

I just watched it. I think. Oh, you know what, I was watching that John Candy documentary. It mentioned it.

D Dave Chow 19:21

We get this every once in a while. It's still pretty interesting. Think Ken Burns. Which U.S. president made Christmas a federal holiday; because, of course, it moves in the calendar.

D Danielle Maxwell 19:31

FDR?

M Matt Mio 19:32

It was before that.

D Dan Maggio 19:34

Abe Lincoln

M Matt Mio 19:34

It was after Lincoln, but before -

B Beth Oljar 19:37

Grant?

M Matt Mio 19:38

It was U.S. Grant. Yes, that's right. What is the name of a famous Christmas themed ballet?

D Danielle Maxwell 19:44

The Nutcracker.

M Matt Mio 19:46

Yeah. Where's Mara, when you need her?

D Danielle Maxwell 19:47

I was a mouse in the Nutcracker at one point in my life, one of the evil mice.

M Matt Mio 19:48

Wait, aren't they rats? I thought they were rats.

D Danielle Maxwell 19:51

Well, there's the rat, but then the rat has mouse little minions. (Laughs) I was like 12, so I had to be a mouse minion. I couldn't be a tall rat.

D Dave Chow 20:03

You could have.

D Danielle Maxwell 20:04

I was not tall enough.

E Erin Bell 20:05

Don't get me started

M Matt Mio 20:07

In How the Grinch Stole Christmas. What was the Grinch's dog's name?

D Danielle Maxwell 20:11

Max!

M Matt Mio 20:12

Yep, they got some thread, and he hung it off of Max's head. What song includes "Don we now are gay apparel"?

J James Tubbs 20:20

Deck the halls with boughs of holly.

M Matt Mio 20:22

Fa-la-la-la-la. According to the Bible, what were the three gifts wise men gave?

J James Tubbs 20:35

Gold, frankincense, and myrrh

M

Matt Mio 20:36

Yes.

E

Erin Bell 20:37

What is myrrh?

D

Dave Chow 20:39

That's when you don't an answer.

J

James Tubbs 20:41

It's a spice that's kind of gummy.

D

Danielle Maxwell 20:43

A few of my students are writing about frankincense and myrrh right now in the Catholic Church, and their connection to it.

E

Erin Bell 20:49

That's cool.

D

Danielle Maxwell 20:50

Yeah

J

James Tubbs 20:50

It's a kind of a perfume, really.

D Danielle Maxwell 20:52

Yes

M Matt Mio 20:53

Before Turkey became common, (I'm guessing, because we're talking about Britain and there were no turkeys) What meat was often served for Christmas in England?

J James Tubbs 21:01

Goose

M Matt Mio 21:01

It says goose, sometimes boar.

E Erin Bell 21:05

Boar?

M Matt Mio 21:05

It seems a little bit of a bore.

B Beth Oljar 21:05

My dissertation advisor and her husband always cooked a goose for Christmas.

D Danielle Maxwell 21:10

Was she British?

 Beth Oljar 21:11

No

 Matt Mio 21:11

It's very unctuous.

 James Tubbs 21:13

And of course, in A Christmas Carol, the story -

 Beth Oljar 21:13

Just a foodie.

 Matt Mio 21:17

That's right

 James Tubbs 21:17

it's a goose

 Erin Bell 21:19

Right,

 James Tubbs 21:20

the one bigger than the little boy.

M

Matt Mio 21:21

"Do you mean the one as big as me". In Mariah Carey's classic - that's debatable - All I Want For Christmas song, what does she say she will not wish for? I won't even wish for - ?

D

Dave Chow 21:34

A second career. (The professors laugh)

E

Erin Bell 21:38

This is a stumper.

M

Matt Mio 21:40

This is a good one.

D

Danielle Maxwell 21:41

I have to sing this whole song in my head.

M

Matt Mio 21:43

You know, because all she "wants for Christmas is you". So she won't even wish for -?

D

Danielle Maxwell 21:47

Anyone else?

M

Matt Mio 21:48

No, it's very classically Christmas. I won't for - ?

D

Dave Chow 21:52

Like, charcoal ?

D

Danielle Maxwell 21:53

A present under the tree? a ring under the tree?

B

Beth Oljar 21:55

A stocking?

M

Matt Mio 21:56

I'm not gonna repeat it, because that's not helping.

M

Matt Mio 21:58

10s and 20s. No, she doesn't want snow. She doesn't want snow for Christmas,

D

Dave Chow 21:58

Real estate.

J

James Tubbs 22:08

I want snow until Christmas and then you can keep it after that.

B

Beth Oljar 22:13

"All I want is my fair share".

M

Matt Mio 22:15

"All I want is what's coming to me"

D

Dave Chow 22:19

Who sang Rocking Around The Christmas Tree in 1958

B

Beth Oljar 22:23

Pearl Ives, wasn't it?

J

James Tubbs 22:24

No, she's real short.

D

Dave Chow 22:26

Brenda Lee

M

Matt Mio 22:27

Brenda Lee. How old was Brenda Lee, when that single was recorded?

E

Erin Bell 22:30

16

D

Dave Chow 22:31

Legal

M

Matt Mio 22:32

She was 13 years old.

M

Matt Mio 22:36

as old as Emmett Mio.

D

Dave Chow 22:37

Oh, not legal.

M

Matt Mio 22:37

13.

D

Dan Maggio 22:37

She was?

J

James Tubbs 22:37

Yeah.

D

Dan Maggio 22:37

Wow.

D

Danielle Maxwell 22:38

Could you imagine Emmett releasing a song?

M

Matt Mio 22:39

I can actually - sort of, sort of.

D

Dave Chow 22:43

Hey, he had the sing-song thing when he did trick or-treat my house.

M

Matt Mio 22:46

Mm-hm. It's easy to remember, but hard to calculate. In total, how many gifts are given in the 12 Days of Christmas. If you add them all up?

D

Dan Maggio 22:56

364

M

Matt Mio 22:58

364 is exactly correct.

D

Danielle Maxwell 23:00

12 exclamation point, right? 12 factorial?

D

Dan Maggio 23:03

No, that would be massively huge. No, it's 12 times 13 divided by - Wait a minute.

D

Dave Chow 23:09

Uh-oh

D Dan Maggio 23:09

No, let me think about that. I'll get back to you. (Matt laughs)

D Danielle Maxwell 23:13

Oh, it's not multiplied, it's added, yeah, I was multiplying.

D Dan Maggio 23:16

It's 12 times one plus 11 times two plus 10 times three -

M Matt Mio 23:21

Right, right.

D Dan Maggio 23:21

So that's not a factorial.

D Danielle Maxwell 23:23

No, it's not.

D Dan Maggio 23:24

12 factorial is over like -

D Dave Chow 23:26

Over my head, way over my head.

J

James Tubbs 23:28

It sounds like something you need calculus for,

D

Danielle Maxwell 23:32

I took calculus. That's the sad part.

B

Beth Oljar 23:33

But you didn't take it from Dan, like Matt did.

D

Danielle Maxwell 23:33

No.

D

Dan Maggio 23:33

I don't know if there's a quick formula for that. I will look it up.

B

Beth Oljar 23:43

Didn't you take Calc 3 from Dan?

D

Dan Maggio 23:43

Please do

M

Matt Mio 23:43

Calc 3. Yeah

B Beth Oljar 23:44

I did not know that. Is this part of the lore?

B Beth Oljar 23:47

Did you get an A?

D Dave Chow 23:50

Oh, I just - He was very good. And I remember Dan going to the board, and as I've said many times on the show, he drew like a perfect circle. He did the thing with his arm. And then we were doing polar coordinates. I'm like, "Oh, wow!"

D Dan Maggio 24:02

I just saw, you know, when you're on YouTube, they always put the list on the side of random things that they think you might like?

D Dan Maggio 24:08

Well, there was one video of people doing perfect circles, not at the elbow -

D Dave Chow 24:10

not at the shoulder

M Matt Mio 24:10

Mm-hm.

D Dan Maggio 24:11

not at the shoulder, but at the wrist.

M

Matt Mio 24:15

Oh my gosh!

D

Dan Maggio 24:15

And there's this one guy who does a perfect circle. They tell

D

Dave Chow 24:20

They showed us how to do it from the fingers.

D

Dave Chow 24:24

Yeah, I can do it. We actually had to ellipses. Like 10 degree, 20, 30, 40,

D

Dan Maggio 24:24

That's fantastic. Oh, you would probably -

M

Matt Mio 24:31

Wow!. In what year, professors, were the first string lights for Christmas, you can call them Christmas lights, invented?

J

James Tubbs 24:31

1923

M

Matt Mio 24:37

It was way before that.

D Danielle Maxwell 24:42

Really?

J James Tubbs 24:42

1894

M Matt Mio 24:44

I mean, I'll give it to you, it's the 1880s - because they were Edison lights. We even call them Edison Lights to this day when you see the special filament -

J James Tubbs 24:51

and they tended to burn up the tree.

M Matt Mio 24:52

Exactly, exactly. How many towns in the United States of America are named Christmas? I'll even give you the biggest hint of all time - I-75 from beginning to end.

D Dan Maggio 24:52

9

D Dave Chow 24:52

12

D Danielle Maxwell 24:53

13.

D Dave Chow 24:54

Two

M Matt Mio 24:54

Just two

M Matt Mio 24:56

from the beginning - in Michigan -

D Dave Chow 24:56

Oh, okay

E Erin Bell 25:11

I think I was in a city called Christmas. Is there one in Florida?

M Matt Mio 25:14

and in one in Florida, Florida and Michigan. There you go. That's it.

D Danielle Maxwell 25:17

Where is Christmas Michigan?

M Matt Mio 25:18

Christmas is in the Upper Peninsula.

 Erin Bell 25:20

I was just there too.

 Matt Mio 25:20

Mm-hm, near Munising. Yep.

 James Tubbs 25:25

Have you been to Hell too?

 Matt Mio 25:26

(Laughs)

 Erin Bell 25:28

Well, let me tell you about this semester.

 James Tubbs 25:31

(Laughs)

 Dave Chow 25:31

You forget where she works

 Matt Mio 25:33

According to the cartoon, what does Frosty the Snowman say when his hat is put on?

D

Dave Chow 25:38

Merry - Or "Happy Birthday"

M

Matt Mio 25:40

Happy birthday.

E

Erin Bell 25:40

Yippee Ki-Yay

D

Dave Chow 25:41

Careful. Careful.

M

Matt Mio 25:44

Oh my gosh, that's awesome. What artist wrote and performed the hit song, "Run Run Rudolph"?

D

Danielle Maxwell 25:51

the Jackson Five,

B

Beth Oljar 25:53

The Beach Boys,

M

Matt Mio 25:54

Mm-mm. A classic early rock guitarist. That was actually Chuck Berry.

J

James Tubbs 26:00

Oh, Chuck Berry.

M

Matt Mio 26:01

Run Run Rudolph, mm-hm. How many French hens are there in 12 Days of Christmas?

B

Beth Oljar 26:06

Three.

J

James Tubbs 26:07

Three French hens, two turtles, and a partridge and a pear tree.

M

Matt Mio 26:11

According to tradition, how did Mary get transported to Jesus's birthplace for the census?

J

James Tubbs 26:16

On a donkey

D

Dave Chow 26:16

An Uber.. (Danielle laughs)

B

Beth Oljar 26:16

for the census?

J

James Tubbs 26:17

It was a census. Yes

D

Danielle Maxwell 26:21

I didn't know there was a census.

J

James Tubbs 26:24

That's why they had to return to their family city - to be registered.

E

Erin Bell 26:29

Yeah

M

Matt Mio 26:30

For the record. I just want to make sure we're on the same page. It wasn't a donkey census. It was a human census.

B

Beth Oljar 26:30

But I didn't know that.

M

Matt Mio 26:33

Just making sure. Oh, you didn't know that?

D

Danielle Maxwell 26:39

I did not know that part.

B

Beth Oljar 26:40

My familiarity with the Bible is pretty, you know, minimal.

M

Matt Mio 26:45

It's okay.

J

James Tubbs 26:45

We all have weaknesses.

D

Dave Chow 26:47

How about where was that donkey - the aforementioned donkey headed? Can you answer that one?

J

James Tubbs 26:55

Bethlehem.

M

Matt Mio 26:56

Bethlehem

D

Danielle Maxwell 26:56

Yes, I can do that.

M

Matt Mio 26:58

FYI, not Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, but uh -

J

James Tubbs 27:02

Who knows where the donkey wanted to go?

D

Danielle Maxwell 27:05

(Laughs) Not there, probably

M

Matt Mio 27:07

There is some, uh - You know, I'm all for being spiritual, but there's some wackadoodle tradition about the fact that there's a special kind of Middle Eastern donkey that the hair pattern on its back actually makes a cross.

D

Dave Chow 27:19

What?!

M

Matt Mio 27:20

So, you know, even before Jesus was born, his mother was bearing the the symbol of, you know, blah, blah, blah.

J

James Tubbs 27:26

I just prefer Father Guido Sarducci and find the face of the pope in the pizza.

D

Dave Chow 27:31

(Laughs)

M

Matt Mio 27:32

Professors, I'm so sorry, and I'm glad you're having holiday fun, but the time has come to say goodbye. Danielle.

 Danielle Maxwell 27:39
Adios.

 Matt Mio 27:40
Dave

 Dave Chow 27:40
See 'ya.

 Matt Mio 27:41
Erin

 Erin Bell 27:42
Happy holidays.

 Matt Mio 27:43
Jim

 James Tubbs 27:43
Bye

 Matt Mio 27:43
Dan

D Dan Maggio 27:44

Bye

M Matt Mio 27:44

and Beth

B Beth Oljar 27:45

Bye.

M Matt Mio 27:45

Now these words

A Announcer 27:47

You can email, Ask The Professor at ATP@UDMercy.edu, or visit the Ask the Professor Facebook page.

M Matt Mio 27:57

Ask the Professor is transcribed in the facilities of the Briggs Building in the Department of Communication Studies at University of Detroit Mercy's McNichols campus. Ask The Professor is produced and directed by Michael Jayson and Brian Maisonneuve, and our executive producer is Professor Jason Roche. Until next week, I'm your host, Matt Mio