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Costco, trivia, hot dogs, membership, Kirkland, toilet paper, rotisserie chicken, Sam's Club, altitude sickness, Mexico City, daylight savings, butter tarts, fudge, travel, spring break.

SPEAKERS

James Tubbs, Matt Mio, Ph.D., Brian Curtis, Erin Bell, Danielle Maxwell, Dave Chow, Announcer

- M** Matt Mio, Ph.D. 00:01
The University tower chimes ringing another session of Ask the Professor, the show on 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. To my right, from the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, it's Professor Danielle Maxwell,
- D** Danielle Maxwell 00:21
Hello. Happy Spring Break.
- M** Matt Mio, Ph.D. 00:22
Happy Spring Break, almost. Yeah
- D** Dave Chow 00:22
This is pretty much it. This is my last meeting of the day, and I don't see this as a meeting. So this is spring break. So Happy Spring Break. Yes,

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 00:25
You have a lot of treats in front of you, but they're not being eaten.

D Danielle Maxwell 00:33
They are not being eaten because Professor Curtis and I are going on a road trip, and I think I'll get hungry during that three hours. So I think I'm gonna save these snacks for the three hour car ride.

J James Tubbs 00:42
Where's your road trip to?

D Danielle Maxwell 00:43
We're going to Boyne for an anniversary trip for the weekend. We planned on skiing, but it will be 50 degrees tomorrow, and then -

J James Tubbs 00:55
It'll be mush

D Dave Chow 00:55
You'll be slushing,

D Danielle Maxwell 00:56
and then it's gonna freeze to 32, and I really don't want to ski on ice. We're just gonna, like, hop around Emmett County - Traverse City area, see what there is

J James Tubbs 01:01
There's a lot up there,

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 01:02
Wonderful, wonderful. That's great. And you will be well fed with butter tarts

D Danielle Maxwell 01:08
With butter tarts from Canada. Yes,

J James Tubbs 01:10
Canadian butter tarts.

B Brian Curtis 01:12
And eventually fudge.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 01:13
And eventually fudge

D Danielle Maxwell 01:14
so much fudge.

D Dave Chow 01:16
I mean, once up north starts - wherever that starts. It sounds like Professor Brian Curtis, also from Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, is looking forward to the fudge

B Brian Curtis 01:26
I am. Yes.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 01:27
Why would you not?

B Brian Curtis 01:27
And somewhat the daylight savings.

D Dave Chow 01:30
Ohhh!

D Danielle Maxwell 01:31
No, our cats will sleep in

B Brian Curtis 01:33
Yes, this is personal, cat related reasons. We need an extra hour of sleep.

D Danielle Maxwell 01:40
No more 3am's

D Dave Chow 01:41
Professor Erin Bell is here from the Writing Center.

E Erin Bell 01:44
Greetings.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 01:45
It's director.

E Erin Bell 01:46
Yes, I will also be up like your cats at 3am today, taking off to travel with the University to Mexico City.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 01:55
Oh, that's right.

J James Tubbs 01:58
Are they gonna turn their clocks ahead in Mexico City when you get there?

E Erin Bell 02:01
Oh my gosh, I haven't even, yeah, I don't know, because I have -

J James Tubbs 02:05
You'd hate to lose an hour of sleep twice in a row.

D Dave Chow 02:08
Nothing Tequila can't take care of

E Erin Bell 02:10
well, I don't know that I can do that, because altitude sickness. They said that we might want to, like, sort of wait before we indulge. And I'm a hypochondriac, so naturally I'm -

D Dave Chow 02:23

Do you want the formula for - ?

E Erin Bell 02:26

Yes, I do is it, is there a chemical equation or an artistic -

D Dave Chow 02:29

I did aspirin 24 hours prior to

E Erin Bell 02:33

okay,

D Dave Chow 02:33

every four hours.

J James Tubbs 02:33

Really?

D Dave Chow 02:33

Yes, that solved. Yeah. Like when I used to go snowboarding out in Colorado. First time out, the altitude sickness almost killed me. Second time around, I did the Aspirin.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 02:39

Really?

D Dave Chow 02:40
Yes.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 02:41
Interesting.

E Erin Bell 02:41
So, I've been to Denver, ironically enough, to see the pope for World Youth Day 1994 and I had no trouble back then. It was really awesome. But I think - I looked at it, and I think it's quite a few, it's quite a bit higher.

J James Tubbs 02:44
Yeah. It is

E Erin Bell 02:58
Okay.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 02:59
Okay.

J James Tubbs 03:00
I remember the athletes in '68 in the Olympics had a hard time getting used to that. Well, that sounds

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 03:00
Well, that sounds like it's gonna be an incredible trip, no matter what though.

E Erin Bell 03:07
Definitely, I'm really looking forward to, in particular, Xochimilco, because of the canals. And as some of you know, I like the birds. There's gonna be some birds

D Dave Chow 03:17
Shocking - Not shocking

E Erin Bell 03:19
Yeah, excited.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 03:21
I love it. I love it. And just back from his tour of the seven crown heads of Europe.

J James Tubbs 03:28
(Laughs) No other direction, Matt. Other direction, Hawaii and Arizona. The one crown head sends her best regards. And that is Diane Manica.

D Dave Chow 03:37
Oh, that's great. You saw Diane. She's doing well?

J James Tubbs 03:39
Oh yeah, doing well several times. She's doing great.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 03:41
Okay, that's great to hear. I'm glad you had a chance to see her, but you obviously had a successful trip, at least from the perspective of the fact that you returned.

D Dave Chow 03:49
No, that's successful.

D Danielle Maxwell 03:50
And the photos on line.

J James Tubbs 03:51
Yes, no, it Well, we did - the last morning, when it was 88 degrees in Phoenix, we were saying, "Hmm, what are we going back to?"

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 04:02
That's great. And Professor Dave Chow is here as always.

D Dave Chow 04:06
Pleasure to be here as always.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 04:07
Yes, exactly. Something about bowling down the middle of the street. What were we talking about?

D Dave Chow 04:07
Oh, yeah. We're gonna find new government officials.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 04:14
Oh, by seeing if we can hit one with the bowling ball. Yeah, that sounds about right.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 04:18
If they fall over, they're elected.

J James Tubbs 04:19
Well, I can think of a few good targets.

D Dave Chow 04:20
It's random, and I'm sure we could do better.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 04:21
Oh my gosh. Well, folks, this is a program where you could send us questions regarding anything. If you stump the panel, you receive a brand new edition of the ATP coffee mug and an autographed photograph of the professors. Or, if you're really lucky, an extra small Naked Gun more recent remake promotional sleeveless t shirt.

D Danielle Maxwell 04:44
We have two of them.

E Erin Bell 04:45
Wow, I am envious.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 04:46
We won them at the trivia contest. More details later, if you don't stump the panel, we'll send you an autographed photograph. You can send us the questions in a number of ways. Email us at ATP@UDMercy.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. We've got one of these kind of interesting scenarios where someone just sent one question, but it's a good one. It's a solid piece of trivia. They noticed a pattern, and they're going to take advantage of it.

D Dave Chow 05:16
Uh-oh, food.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 05:17
This is from Jose Guzman of Royal Oak, Michigan. Between 1978 and 1981 every Best Supporting Actress Oscar winner had the same initials. What were the initials, and could you name any of the four supporting actresses?

D Dave Chow 05:33
What was the years?

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 05:34
1978 to 1981

D Danielle Maxwell 05:37
like MS, with like Meryl Streep,

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 05:39
it is. MS, you knew that on the top of your head, that's great. So for the record, Meryl Streep was 79

D Dave Chow 05:45
Mary Steenbergen,

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 05:47
and it was Kramer versus Kramer. Mary Steenbergen was 1980 ,Melvin and Howard was the name of the film.

J James Tubbs 05:54
Oh, yeah.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 05:55
Can you do 78 or 81?

D Dave Chow 05:57
Who's another MS

J James Tubbs 05:57
MS,

E Erin Bell 05:59
who is the actor in Superman? Margo?

D Dave Chow 06:02
Margo Kidder?

E Erin Bell 06:03
no, that's a k

D Dave Chow 06:04
No, no.

D Dave Chow 06:05
How about we go, Professor McGonagall,

D Danielle Maxwell 06:09
oh, oh, my goodness. Dame Maggie,

E Erin Bell 06:12
Maggie Smith

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 06:13
Maggie Smith. for California Suite in 1978. And all you're missing is 1981. Very, very well known that the movie REDS was pretty much a big deal that year. But who was the MS that was the best supporting actress? It's a classic one.

D Dave Chow 06:32
Michelle?

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 06:33
No,

D Dave Chow 06:33
Mary

D Danielle Maxwell 06:34
Margaret,

D Dave Chow 06:35
Michaela,

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 06:35
very well known actress, 60s, 70s, 80s. It was Maureen Stapleton is who it was in REDS. But that is a pretty cool pattern. I gotta say, Jose, that's great that you sent those in.

D Danielle Maxwell 06:43
It was a total guess. I had no idea.

D Dave Chow 06:48
That's it im changing my initials

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 06:48
Feel free-

B Brian Curtis 06:48
Was M.S. a guess?

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 06:48
I mean, Meryl Streep was one of the winners,

D Danielle Maxwell 06:49
I was just thinking of the Devil Wears Prada 2 coming out.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 06:57
Yes, yes,

D Danielle Maxwell 06:58
May 1.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 06:59
So I did this to myself, but I still think it's cool. I said, I wonder if somebody could come up with some questions regarding one of my favorite places in the whole world to go

D Dave Chow 07:11
to bed

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 07:12
I think that (laughs)

E Erin Bell 07:13
it's Clawson.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 07:15
Clawson is a close second.

E Erin Bell 07:16
Okay,

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 07:17
No, it's Costco.

E Erin Bell 07:19
oh okay

J James Tubbs 07:19
Oh, yes


M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 07:20
Trivia about Costco. In what year and in what city was Costco founded?


J James Tubbs 07:27
Seattle?


M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 07:28
It was Seattle. That's right,


J James Tubbs 07:29
but I'm not sure of the year. It was about 25 or 30 years ago.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 07:29
So see if you can kind of get in the wheelhouse here. Yep,

 Erin Bell 07:36
the 80s,

 James Tubbs 07:36
75

 Dave Chow 07:38
78

 Matt Mio, Ph.D. 07:38
Actually, it was early 80s, 83, 1983 in Seattle.

 Danielle Maxwell 07:44
Wow.

 Matt Mio, Ph.D. 07:45
Costco is the world's largest retailer of three things,

 Danielle Maxwell 07:51
hotdogs

 Erin Bell 07:52
chicken.

J James Tubbs 07:53
wine is one of them

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 07:54
number two is chicken?

E Erin Bell 07:56
Yes,

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 07:56
Absolutely.

J James Tubbs 07:58
How about hot dogs?

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 08:00
Hot dogs are not on the list. Chicken is number two.

D Danielle Maxwell 08:03
Alcohol? wine?

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 08:04
By the way, just a little side note, 2023 Costco sold 137 million individual birds worth of chicken. That is a lot of chicken.



James Tubbs 08:15

I do worry about the hormones they pump them up with, because those are the fattest chickens ever



Dave Chow 08:19

Those are not hormones, that's just-



Matt Mio, Ph.D. 08:21

Two other things that Costco is the world's largest retailer of



Erin Bell 08:24

toilet paper.



Matt Mio, Ph.D. 08:25

No, I mean,



Erin Bell 08:27

sorry



Matt Mio, Ph.D. 08:28

we're gonna go through all-



Matt Mio, Ph.D. 08:28

No, we're gonna, we're gonna go through all the things - those double boxes of Honey Nut Cheerios.

D Danielle Maxwell 08:32
bottled water.

J James Tubbs 08:33
No, well, I know that they're the biggest wine retailer in California, which is saying something

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 08:39
they are, but that's

D Danielle Maxwell 08:40
like, there's, like, a ton of eggs. So the

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 08:43
truth is it's, they're both foods, okay? They're both foods.

D Dave Chow 08:46
Croissants.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 08:47
No, although those boxes are huge, they're cheap. Man,

J James Tubbs 08:50
yeah, they are

D Danielle Maxwell 08:51
cake. Costco, cake,

B Brian Curtis 08:52
I was gonna say cake too.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 08:53
So one of the two is something that we actually have a reputation in the metro Detroit area for over 100 years on importing because they usually didn't grow in the United States back when they were starting to be imported. If I say companies like germac,

D Dave Chow 09:08
pistachios,

J James Tubbs 09:09
nuts,

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 09:10
so nuts, cashews. In particular, Costco is the world's biggest supplier of retailer of cashews.

J James Tubbs 09:15
Oh, they do have those big jars of cashews

D Danielle Maxwell 09:17
giant ones. Yeah.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 09:18
The other thing comes from their their butcher, so don't think too hard.

D Dave Chow 09:23
Ribs

D Danielle Maxwell 09:24
like steak,

E Erin Bell 09:24
beef, ground beef,

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 09:26
prime beef, prime beef. Costco, number one in the world

D Danielle Maxwell 09:30
on my shopping list for this weekend.

J James Tubbs 09:32
I'm never feeding that many people at one time.

D Danielle Maxwell 09:34
I really have to know how many cakes they sell, though.

E Erin Bell 09:36
Yeah,

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 09:37
I bet it's up there.

D Danielle Maxwell 09:38
It's up there.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 09:39
Costco, of course, known for its 4.99, rotisserie chicken unshredded and dollar 50 hot dog combo. How many stores operate globally for Costco,

D Danielle Maxwell 09:52
including the business centers?

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 09:54
I guess that that would qualify

B Brian Curtis 09:56
above or

J James Tubbs 09:57
280,

B Brian Curtis 09:58
below 100

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 09:59
we got 280 All right, we're going around the table here.

E Erin Bell 10:01
5.79,

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 10:03
5.79 it's like classic price is right stuff.

D Dave Chow 10:05
I'm gonna bet 1 dollar

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 10:05
Your gonna bet one dollar, you say

D Danielle Maxwell 10:10
4.54

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 10:11
4.54,

B Brian Curtis 10:12
Brian, I'm gonna guess 3.75,

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 10:15
I mean, you're all very far off. It's over 800 it's in the low 800

D Danielle Maxwell 10:20
Wow.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 10:20
That's a lot.

D Dave Chow 10:22
There goes my dollar bid.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 10:23
Your top selling store, as in, by number of items sold, is in the United States. Where is it?

D Danielle Maxwell 10:31
Madison Heights, Michigan.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 10:32
It is not in Madison-I feel like I'm doing my part, but -

D Danielle Maxwell 10:36
your cart was pretty full.

B Brian Curtis 10:37
Yeah, let's go with the Seattle location.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 10:40
No, I think you need to think more in a, you know, Jim Tubbs travel direction,

D Danielle Maxwell 10:45
Hawaii.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 10:45
It's Hawaii,

J James Tubbs 10:47
which one

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 10:48
top selling store. It says

J James Tubbs 10:50
somewhere in Hawaii, the one in Kauai. And I was at the one and Kailua, Kona, but it was not at the one in Honolulu.

D Danielle Maxwell 11:00
Sam's Club in Honolulu, and that was pretty impressive.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 11:02
Oh, my God,

J James Tubbs 11:03
I have eaten, in fact, at those two, the one in Kauai,

D Danielle Maxwell 11:07
They have really good pizza

B Brian Curtis 11:08
and the drink options are different.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 11:10
You all are killing me

J James Tubbs 11:11
and their their food is served outside. That's another thing is definitely interesting.

D Danielle Maxwell 11:15
Parking Garage was on top of the store.

E Erin Bell 11:17
Oh, wow.

D Danielle Maxwell 11:17
Park on top and then go to the underground store.

D Dave Chow 11:19
I still remember when my cousins came from China. I met them in San Francisco, and they wanted Costco pizza.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 11:25
To go to Costco

D Dave Chow 11:26
for pizza.

J James Tubbs 11:29
We got one of those. We got one of those on the Big Island of Hawaii. And, I mean, I had to keep eating it, but we still never finished it.

E Erin Bell 11:37
I have a question, do they not offer the supreme there anymore, because I don't like just, I don't like the option

J James Tubbs 11:43
just cheese or just pepperoni.

D Danielle Maxwell 11:44
Yeah, cheese is amazing.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 11:48
Folks. The Costco stores are massive by square feet. Could you try to get close with the number of how many square feet a standard Costco is

D Dave Chow 11:57
15,000

D Danielle Maxwell 11:58
25,000

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 12:01
I got 15. I got 25

B Brian Curtis 12:03
I'm gonna give 12,000

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 12:05
12,000

J James Tubbs 12:06
I'd say 15,000

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 12:07
15,000

E Erin Bell 12:08
No, math is not my thing. 21,000

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 12:11
okay, you're all so far off that it's laughable.

E Erin Bell 12:15
Okay,

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 12:15
A standard Costco is 146,000 square feet.

D Dave Chow 12:20
Combine all of our numbers

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 12:20
Except for one notable Costco,

D Dave Chow 12:23
Madison Heights.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 12:24
Keep guessing, though you never know there is one that is by design half as small in the United States.

J James Tubbs 12:34
Must be New York City.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 12:36
That's a really good guess. But I actually want you to think less population density,


D Danielle Maxwell 12:41
like Iowa, somewhere in the middle of Iowa.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 12:43
How about you think even less population?


E Erin Bell 12:43
North Dakota,


D Danielle Maxwell 12:44
Utah?

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 12:44
How about even less popular?


 Erin Bell 12:46
Alaska


 Matt Mio, Ph.D. 12:47
There we go. It's in Juneau. It's in Juneau, Alaska.

 James Tubbs 12:52
Oh,

 Matt Mio, Ph.D. 12:52
that's right.

 James Tubbs 12:53
I didn't know there was one there. I would have gone.

 Danielle Maxwell 12:55
I know that because when I worked with the Inupiat in northern Alaska, most people on the flight we're doing Costco grocery runs. It was cheaper to get on a plane, fly there, get your groceries, fly back.

 James Tubbs 13:06
Well, because everything is expensive,

 Danielle Maxwell 13:07
Oh my gosh \$13 a gallon for milk up, very expensive

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 13:11
cheaper to bring the cow.

D Danielle Maxwell 13:12
Honestly,

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 13:13
if you pay attention, then you already know this one. Costco is one of the nation's largest dealers of what, with annual sales of 500,000 basically putting them in the top five for this item that is sold,

D Danielle Maxwell 13:28
chicken

D Dave Chow 13:28
tires.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 13:29
It is not food, gas. You say tires, you're close

D Dave Chow 13:33
batteries,

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 13:34
not batteries.

J James Tubbs 13:34
Gas.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 13:35
I mean, you need to go a little bit bigger,

D Dave Chow 13:38
big tires.

D Danielle Maxwell 13:39
Cars.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 13:40
Costco sells cars. Yes, they do

J James Tubbs 13:43
They negotiate Yeah. They negotiate for you. Dealers.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 13:46
They are whether what is called a hidden retailer. So like, you ever notice you buy something on Amazon and then suddenly it's not coming from Amazon, right from some third party. I mean, they they arrange for a lot of that. Over half a million autos moved annually.

D Danielle Maxwell 14:00
Wow.

B Brian Curtis 14:01
Now the question is, is, what is their most popular car?

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 14:03
That is a good question.

D Dave Chow 14:05
Tesla,

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 14:05
I got no background.

J James Tubbs 14:06
Oh, there's, there's so many. I mean, I've gotten a Costco discount on a new car just because they were, they were associated with dealer. Was associated

B Brian Curtis 14:15
with next car.

D Danielle Maxwell 14:16
Next Car. Yeah, not GM. We're gonna go through Costco cars.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 14:19
About 25% of all Costco sales come from their private label. What is

J James Tubbs 14:25
Kirkland?

D Danielle Maxwell 14:25
Kirkland,

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 14:25
Kirkland, which is named after, what?

D Dave Chow 14:28
Captain?

D Danielle Maxwell 14:29
Captain Kirk Yeah,

D Dave Chow 14:30
to buy it.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 14:31
Captain Kirkland, the rip off Star Trek. No,

D Danielle Maxwell 14:35
the founder of Costco,

J James Tubbs 14:37
something in Seattle, isn't it?

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 14:39
Oh, it is. It is the technical suburb that Costa was in is in Kirkland, outside of Seattle,

J James Tubbs 14:45
and incidentally, they cooperate with other local Seattle things. The Kirkland brand of ground coffee that you buy is actually Starbucks,

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 14:53
yeah, that's right. It's also spectacular. I'm not even a coffee drinker.

J James Tubbs 14:56
It's good. And I know that that's yeah, Kirkland coffee is wonderfully

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 14:59
Seriously

D Dave Chow 15:00
So it was named after the county,

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 15:03
the city that they're in

J James Tubbs 15:05
the area.

D Danielle Maxwell 15:06
Interesting,

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 15:09
the hot dog deal. It's one of the things my middle son, Enzo, loves to talk about, because at the very beginning of the pandemic, there were protesters. Question Mark outside of Costco is, please don't change the hot dog price. The price of the hot dog and pop combo has been dollar 50 since what year

D Danielle Maxwell 15:28
the start

D Dave Chow 15:28
83

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 15:29
I mean, it started in 83 so you're close

J James Tubbs 15:33
85

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 15:33
it was 85 it's been that way since 1985 they do not want to change it.

D Danielle Maxwell 15:35
87

J James Tubbs 15:36
I buy them a lot. I tell you, what's really embarrassing is when I open my cupboard at home, because for a long time I tended to keep the cup, the refillable cup, and just wash them out and, you know, save them to put something else in. I now have a huge stack of those things, which means I've eaten that many hot dogs,

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 15:57
Do we need an intervention jim

D Danielle Maxwell 15:59
hot dog Tuesdays in the summer, we've eaten a lot of hot dogs, and

E Erin Bell 15:59
that's true. You should bring them, and we can, like, upcycle them and, like, you can embellish them

D Danielle Maxwell 16:07
exactly.

E Erin Bell 16:09
That is a lot of hot dogs.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 16:11

I don't think in particular, my father in law would have a problem with me mentioning I know my mother in law will, but I'm gonna say it anyway. Every once in a while we're visiting, is like, Oh, your your father, she would say to my wife or me, took me out to lunch the other day, Costco again

J James Tubbs 16:31

my mother loved Costco hot dogs, so that was an easy thing.

D Danielle Maxwell 16:36

We have lunch on Sundays at Costco,

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 16:38

not not on the list, but in the independent consumer reports, guys rated taste test the Costco all beef hot dog is number one, almost every single time.

J James Tubbs 16:50


Oh I also have to tell you that the soft serve ice cream is now not vanilla and chocolate, but vanilla and mint


E Erin Bell 16:57


Oh, really, yes. Well, that's a controversial choice


D Danielle Maxwell 17:00

Yes, and it's good meal.


 Danielle Maxwell 17:02
It looks like it's really good.


 James Tubbs 17:03
I get this swirl


 Danielle Maxwell 17:05
It tastes terrible for those who are observing it


 Matt Mio, Ph.D. 17:07
Just stop globally popular. Costco is 75% of households in this country are Costco members. It's not the United States,


 Danielle Maxwell 17:19
Switzerland.


 Matt Mio, Ph.D. 17:20
It's not Switzerland,


 Dave Chow 17:21
China,


 James Tubbs 17:21
Sweden, Norway,


 Matt Mio, Ph.D. 17:25
um, you're getting close


 Danielle Maxwell 17:26
Finland,


 Dave Chow 17:27
Canada.

 Matt Mio, Ph.D. 17:28
Think more island like

 Danielle Maxwell 17:31
the UK,

 James Tubbs 17:32
Ireland,

 Dave Chow 17:32
Fiji,

 James Tubbs 17:33
Great Britain,

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 17:35
you're only one letter off with Ireland.

D Danielle Maxwell 17:38
Iceland,

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 17:40
it's iceland

J James Tubbs 17:40
oh, okay, well, that makes sense.

D Danielle Maxwell 17:41
Well, they're all living around Reykjavik, and Reykjavik has Costco.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 17:44
75% of the country are Costco members.

D Danielle Maxwell 17:47
I aspire to be that country, though.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 17:49
It's like you're writing like a cop drama. It's like we need to hunt this guy down. All right, let's look up his Costco membership.

J James Tubbs 17:54
I mean, that's still less than the membership at any local Costco in this country, Probably,

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 17:59
yeah, oh my gosh. Unique accommodations. There's a Costco in Lancaster, Pennsylvania that has a special parking stall. Why does it

D Dave Chow 18:08
for the amish

E Erin Bell 18:08
the horses?

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 18:10
The Amish horses, that's right,

D Dave Chow 18:12
There not out busy doing donuts on the front lawn.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 18:15
Very slow donuts.

D Danielle Maxwell 18:18
Can you go fill it up? Go to the gas station. Fill up the horse.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 18:22
If we take the full data set of every Costco on Earth across every product, there is one product that they sell the most of. What is number one on

D Danielle Maxwell 18:32
Chicken

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 18:32
Costco best selling list?

D Danielle Maxwell 18:35
It's not chicken.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 18:35
No, it's not chicken. It's not chicken. I believe

D Danielle Maxwell 18:38
globally

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 18:39
Professor Bell might have already mentioned it

B Brian Curtis 18:42
toilet paper.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 18:43
toilet paper Yes,

E Erin Bell 18:44
bringing back those big pandemic memories,

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 18:48
over a billion rolls sold on average annually. That is a lot.

J James Tubbs 18:53
Well, what do i think,

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 18:54
Well, whatever it is, you got to buy it in that brick the size of a VW Bug.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 19:00
That's why my cart looks so full. I had the paper towel in it.

D Danielle Maxwell 19:01
Fantastic brick

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 19:04
Oh, that's it.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 19:05
Oh my gosh.

D Danielle Maxwell 19:06
And the case of water,

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 19:09
A Costco in China was so crowded on its 2019 opening day, something happened.

D Dave Chow 19:15
They had to shut down.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 19:17
They had to close within an hour.

E Erin Bell 19:19
Wow,

J James Tubbs 19:19
wow.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 19:20
People were excited like, Wow. I don't even know what

E Erin Bell 19:24
they were excited about those hot dogs.

J James Tubbs 19:27
That always sort of brings to mind the the videos taken when, when Walmart opens its doors at 5am on black friday

D Dave Chow 19:39
only a billion people down


J James Tubbs 19:40
get knocked down on the way in.

B Brian Curtis 19:41
So how many Costcos are in China?


M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 19:44
Now that's a good question. I we have to, we're gonna need a second set of Costco questions


D Dave Chow 19:51
Mind you we are not gonna get any sam's club questions are we.


M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 19:53
I mean, no, I think we're gonna keep it pure. Oh, this is a very. Very interesting one as of 2024 only three US states do not have a Costco. Let's see if we can even get one of them.


 Dave Chow 20:08
Arkansas,

 Danielle Maxwell 20:08
Iowa,


 Dave Chow 20:10
Idaho,


 Danielle Maxwell 20:11
North Dakota, South Dakota,


 Dave Chow 20:13
Maine, Delaware,


 Matt Mio, Ph.D. 20:14
if I say

 Danielle Maxwell 20:15
Vermont,


 Matt Mio, Ph.D. 20:16
the smallest state,


 Danielle Maxwell 20:17
Rhode Island.


 Matt Mio, Ph.D. 20:19
There's an extremely mountainous state where it would be hard to get


 Brian Curtis 20:28
Montana

 Danielle Maxwell 20:29
oh, East Coast that's West

 Matt Mio, Ph.D. 20:30
that kind of footprint

 Dave Chow 20:30
Idaho,

 Matt Mio, Ph.D. 20:30
East Coast,

 Dave Chow 20:30
oh,

J James Tubbs 20:30
New Hampshire,

D Danielle Maxwell 20:30
Washington,

D Dave Chow 20:30
Connecticut,

B Brian Curtis 20:30
Maine,

J James Tubbs 20:30
Oh, West Virginia.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 20:32
West Virginia

J James Tubbs 20:33
Does not have a Costco. Charleston doesn't have a Costco huh Wow.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 20:37
And then I think someone said it, I'm sorry. I'm processing very slowly right now, even if you didn't, ironically, the one of the biggest square states out there, Wyoming, apparently does not have a Costco. My niece sent me a meme the other day that was, did you know the population of Wyoming is smaller than all the other 49 states combined? And I'm like, Yes, that makes sense.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 21:02
I did know that

E Erin Bell 21:02
girl logic

D Danielle Maxwell 21:03
symbolic logic, when we where's our Beth when we need her.


M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 21:07
The big reveal, I think this is one of those classic like, did you know kind of things from before the pandemic? A product at Costco, basically one in a blind taste test, versus some of the most highly priced items in the world.


D Danielle Maxwell 21:22
Wine.


M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 21:23
Wine is a good guest.


D Dave Chow 21:25
Salad dressing,


M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 21:25
In the wheelhouse.


 Dave Chow 21:26
Oh,


 Matt Mio, Ph.D. 21:26
with wine.


 Erin Bell 21:27
Different

 Danielle Maxwell 21:27
tequila alcohol rum

 Brian Curtis 21:28
Coffee,

 Erin Bell 21:29
Beer, booze, vodka,

 Matt Mio, Ph.D. 21:32
vodka. It was their vodka,

 James Tubbs 21:34
Kirkland's vodka.

E Erin Bell 21:35
I have no idea what it tastes like.

J James Tubbs 21:37
I've never tried

D Danielle Maxwell 21:38
so we're gonna do it ATP, taste testing, a bunch of vodkas. We'll try it out on a Friday. It'll be great.

E Erin Bell 21:46
I have a three hand plate, so hey, let's just whatever

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 21:49
you all are killing me

D Danielle Maxwell 21:51
we have a bunch of that right? Vodka taste testing.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 21:53
I'm not exactly sure how I'm gonna get you there, but I'll do the best that I can. The founder of Costco, Jim Senegal, stated in the past that his favorite item they've ever sold was what I mean, I don't even know how to guide you. It is a gardening item, if, if that makes

D Danielle Maxwell 22:12
soil

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 22:12
sense, not soil.

E Erin Bell 22:13
The bulb

D Danielle Maxwell 22:14
like a lawnmower.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 22:15
Nope, nope.

D Dave Chow 22:16
A whistle pig,

J James Tubbs 22:18
oh,

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 22:18
it's not a whistle pig, oh.

D Danielle Maxwell 22:19
Fences, like Costco fencing.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 22:22
Fencing is a good guess. That's not

E Erin Bell 22:24
John Deere.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 22:24
It's super lame. Think of the

D Danielle Maxwell 22:26
shovel,

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 22:26
lampest garden thing you can think of

D Dave Chow 22:28
a glove,

D Danielle Maxwell 22:29
a hose,

D Dave Chow 22:30
a gnome. It's got to be a gnome.

- M** Matt Mio, Ph.D. 22:32
Hose is close.
- D** Danielle Maxwell 22:33
A watering can,
- D** Dave Chow 22:35
something that goes with a hose.
- D** Danielle Maxwell 22:37
This handle thing,
- J** James Tubbs 22:38
squirter,
- M** Matt Mio, Ph.D. 22:38
the nozzle yeah
- E** Erin Bell 22:40
That was the exciting thing.
- D** Danielle Maxwell 22:41
How many settings did it have to be?

B Brian Curtis 22:44
This gives us some ideas.

J James Tubbs 22:46
They have, like, 20 settings or something,

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 22:48
exactly.

D Dave Chow 22:48
It serves up the vodka.

J James Tubbs 22:50
Oh, there you go.

D Danielle Maxwell 22:51
This makes sense now, yeah,

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 22:53
you know. And I remember this actually, because I'm old enough now that I can remember when, like, price clubs sort of came on the scene and became, like a bit really big deal, Mr. Bulky on Woodward there,

E Erin Bell 23:06
oh my gosh,

- M** Matt Mio, Ph.D. 23:08
remember Mr. Bulky? Not at all. That's okay. Costco was extremely regional until 1993 but they bought out another company that gave them their national presence back in 93 do you remember what it was called? They bought out. I blew it. I told you the name of it without even saying it. But see, figure it out anyway.
- E** Erin Bell 23:31
They bought out Mr. Bulky.
- M** Matt Mio, Ph.D. 23:33
No, not mr.bulky that was just memories of the 80s in Metro Detroit. Mr. Bulky was a very cool store where you walked in and there were like 100 literal barrels, hand in and grabbed, like gummy worms.
- M** Matt Mio, Ph.D. 23:48
You were not supposed to stick your hand in there
- D** Dave Chow 23:48
that is what the scoop is for
- D** Danielle Maxwell 23:48
they have one in ann arbor
- B** Brian Curtis 23:48
if the scoop is missing you have to just-

D Dave Chow 23:48
pull up a chair and eat

D Danielle Maxwell 23:48
They have one in Ann Arbor still called by the gallon or something like that. Yeah. It's very fun.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 23:58
So what was the name of it? I basically already said it

D Danielle Maxwell 24:04
Something, Wholesale Club

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 24:05
no, but you're close. It was called Price Club. It was the Costco of the East Coast.

J James Tubbs 24:11
Oh,

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 24:11
they basically bought them all up and everything. That was fun. I'm glad I put those together. Everybody really got animated questions about Costco.

D Danielle Maxwell 24:20
We love Costco.

J James Tubbs 24:22
I Love Costco. I have to tell you, sometimes on a Saturday afternoon, I just go to Costco to try some samples and look at the people that are pushing and pushing and pushing all through the store,

D Danielle Maxwell 24:33
or stopping and staring

J James Tubbs 24:34
trying to go through the line on a Saturday afternoon is No, I don't try that. But

D Dave Chow 24:39
when we first got married, we actually have Sam's Club and a Costco membership.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 24:42
oh my gosh

D Dave Chow 24:43
So we tried both.

D Danielle Maxwell 24:44
So did we

D Dave Chow 24:44
And i'm like Sam's Club. There's something about it. It's like it just doesn't feel right in the air.

E Erin Bell 24:50
It's like the hot dog and the chicken

J James Tubbs 24:53
article in the Wall Street Journal probably 20 years ago now, that compared what people got paid and what. Benefits they got. That was the day I switched my membership from Sam's Club to Costco.

D Danielle Maxwell 25:06
It's night and day.

D Dave Chow 25:07
Well, it's like borders and Waldens. I mean

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 25:10
Exactly, exactly. You know, we have just enough time left that I think it would be kind of a fun imponderable to say you're wandering through Costco one day and you found something that you never thought you were gonna find what would it be? What's the memory that you have? I can think of all. Oh, Erin's ready.

E Erin Bell 25:25
I'm so glad this made it into the conversation, because I actually don't go to Costco anymore because of buying things like this. It was, it was a red swing line stapler, like the exact one for folks hosting office space, and I was like, Oh, my God, that's a stapler. So that was a thing where I was like, I didn't need a stapler at all. There's staplers everywhere, but it was so elegant, and that's what I found in Costco, and that's my and

J James Tubbs 25:55
that keeps you from going back when you find such delightful things there.

E Erin Bell 25:59
No my anxiety does. It's just like too much for me.

J James Tubbs 26:02
Oh, it is a lot for sure

D Dave Chow 26:04
Go early in the morning thats all

E Erin Bell 26:05
that's what my husband tells me, but I mostly send him there because the stapler was just the icing on the cake. There were many other frivolous purchase of Uniball pens, for example.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 26:17
Oh, yeah. Absolutely. I mean, my story isn't even about finding anything. But when I'm shopping there with my wife several months ago, they hadn't started the whole, you know, special group that can come at nine yet. And the woman is wandering through this forest, just this giant like Civil War battlefield of carts waiting to check out, you know. And she comes over and sees us, and she stands and she looks at us with a clipboard. She's like, "If you join this thing, then you never have to do this ever again". And didn't even get us to sign anything. Just walked away. And I'm like, that is the greatest advertising I've ever heard, like you're in the thick of it at that moment. And my wife walked right over to the info desk and got us that level of membership. And now we go at nine, when basically less crazies are there.

J James Tubbs 27:01
I had the executive membership and never used it by going early, because I'm just not up early.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 27:05
It's okay. It's okay. It's hard to go to a Costco at like 10 or 11

J James Tubbs 27:08
I wish they would stay open late, actually

D Dave Chow 27:10
Exactly. If they were open 24/7 or at least 24 on weekends.

J James Tubbs 27:15
Except I respect the fact that they want to give their workers good hours. I respect the fact that they're closed on -

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 27:26
incredible. All I know about Costco is, if you see something you want, you'd better get it right then.

D Dave Chow 27:27
They could hire us nightowls

B Brian Curtis 27:27
Dave, you'd be there at two or 3am

D Dave Chow 27:27
of course,

J James Tubbs 27:27
Yeah, that's true.

B Brian Curtis 27:31
Oh Chobani yogurt. They were, they were gone for a few weeks. We were stuck with the cups, and they came back the other day

D Danielle Maxwell 27:42
they do have this air fryer I really want right now. It's the Ninja Crispi 5-in-1.

D Dave Chow 27:42
I know that one

D Danielle Maxwell 27:44
It's currently on sale.

D Dave Chow 27:50
Weve been thinking about it too, so

J James Tubbs 27:52
They have a lot of good book sales, too.

D Danielle Maxwell 27:55
They do. I love their books. so many good books

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 27:58
by the pound, by the pound,

D Danielle Maxwell 28:00
all of y'all need to read Project Hail Mary. By the way, the movie comes out this month. It's a fantastic

J James Tubbs 28:04
what movie?

D Danielle Maxwell 28:05
Project, Hail Mary, I'm almost done with the book. It is fantastic.


J James Tubbs 28:08
Oh,


D Danielle Maxwell 28:08
it is amazing.


D Dave Chow 28:09
I'm so sorry, profs. I knew that this was gonna be a good conversation. It always pains me to cut you off, but the time has come to say goodbye, Dave,


D Dave Chow 28:17
see ya


M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 28:17
Jim,


 James Tubbs 28:18
goodbye.


 Matt Mio, Ph.D. 28:18
Erin


 Erin Bell 28:19
Good bye,

 Matt Mio, Ph.D. 28:19
Brian,

 Brian Curtis 28:20
See you later.

 Matt Mio, Ph.D. 28:20
And Danielle

 Danielle Maxwell 28:21
Adios,

 Matt Mio, Ph.D. 28:22
now these words,



Announcer 28:23

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



Matt Mio, Ph.D. 28:33

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