

MARGARET'S QUIZ ABOUT JEFF (October 14, 2017)

Please **hand in your team's answers** to Margaret **BY 7:30 PM** – thanks!
The teams with the most right answers will win **PRIZES!**

RULES:

- **Looking up the answers is NOT allowed!** – you can't use your mobile device, or phone a friend, or consult Jeff's CV (or cheat in some other way I haven't thought of!).
- Your team must consist of **BETWEEN 3 AND 5 ADULTS OR TEENAGERS (plus as many kids under age 13 as you like).**
- Each person can **only be on ONE team.**

Hint: mingling is encouraged (you can improve your odds by teaming up with people who are familiar with other aspects of Jeff's life).

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On the copy your team is handing in, please write the **TEAM MEMBERS' NAMES** here:

(1) _____ (2) _____ (3) _____

Optionally: (4) _____ (5) _____

Optionally: **Kids on your team:** _____

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1. Which Star Trek character has Jeff impersonated the most often? (*Circle one.*)
(a) Kirk (b) Picard (c) Quark (d) Scotty (e) Spock (f) Worf
2. Jeff's great-grandparents all immigrated to New York City in the late 19th or early 20th century. Which one of these present-day countries is **NOT** the birthplace of any of Jeff's great-grandparents? (*Circle one.*)
(a) Belarus (b) Bulgaria (c) Hungary (d) Poland (e) Romania (f) Ukraine
3. At which one of the following events has Jeff **NOT** given a lecture? (*Circle one.*)
(a) a conference of Canadian insurance brokers in Maui, Hawaii
(b) a conference of the Canadian Institute of Forestry in Dawson City, Yukon
(c) Les Journées de Statistique in Bordeaux, France
(d) a meeting of the Supreme and High Court Justices of Ireland in Dublin
(e) a Problem Gambling Institute of Ontario forum in Toronto
4. Which one of the following has **NOT** been among Jeff's hobbies or regular activities at some point in his life? (*Circle one.*)
(a) basketball (b) bicycling (c) chess (d) contra dancing (e) cycling
(f) improvisational comedy (g) interactive fiction (h) origami (i) Monopoly (j) piano
(k) soccer (l) swing dancing (m) weekly movie meetup
5. Jeff was born at Scarborough General Hospital – but where he was conceived? (*Circle one.*)
(a) Ann Arbor, Michigan (b) Madison, Wisconsin (c) Mississauga, Ontario
(d) Montreal, Quebec (e) Cambridge, England (f) Cambridge, Massachusetts
(g) Queens, New York City

6. Can you fill in the missing word from this chorus of a song that Jeff wrote and performed online for thousands of students?

One, two, alpha beta
I'm making sense of data
And it's not a fluke
It's cause I took a _____

7. To which one of the following groups or organizations has Jeff **NOT** belonged? (*Circle one.*)

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| (a) Bad Dog Theatre | (b) Centre for Inquiry |
| (c) Free Software Foundation | (d) Harbord Village Residents' Association |
| (e) Humanist Association of Canada | (f) Institute of Mathematical Statistics |
| (g) R Foundation | (h) Serial Diners |
| (i) Society for Creative Anachronism | (j) Statistical Society of Canada |
| (k) Trinity College Tennis Club | (l) University of Toronto Faculty Association Council |

8. What is Jeff's Erdős number? _____

(If you've heard of "Kevin Bacon numbers" for actors, "Erdős numbers" are sort of like that, but for mathematicians.)

9. Which one of the following types of paid work has Jeff **NOT** done? (*Circle one.*)

- (a) computer programming for an astronomy professor
- (b) delivering the Toronto Star newspaper
- (c) expert witness in a deposition to the Supreme Court of Canada
- (d) musical accompaniment to a radio play at Spadina Museum
- (e) optimization of customers' cell phone plans
- (f) preparing burger meat at Blueberry Hill
- (g) research assistant at Chalk River Nuclear Research Centre
- (h) serving afternoon tea at the Guild Inn
- (i) teaching math at the University of Minnesota

10. Jeff is a member of a four-man improv troupe. What's it called? _____

11. Which one of the following schools did Jeff **NOT** attend? (*Circle one.*)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| (a) Churchill Heights Public School | (b) Harvard University |
| (c) Jarvis Collegiate Institute | (d) Tecumseh Junior High School |
| (e) University of Toronto | (f) Willow Park Junior Public School |
| (g) Woburn Collegiate Institute | |

12. Jeff created an animated character: a mild-mannered professor who voyages into space and becomes a "soup hero". What is the name of this character? _____

13. At which one of the following has Jeff **NOT** performed music? (*Circle one.*)

- (a) Alliance Française, Rarotonga, Cook Islands
- (b) Casa Loma, Toronto
- (c) Great Hall at Hart House, University of Toronto
- (d) ISBA World Meeting, Hamilton Island, Australia
- (e) MCMSki, Bormio, Italy
- (f) Moonshine Café, Oakville, Ontario
- (g) Scarborough Village Theatre production of *The Mumberley Inheritance*

14. One of Jeff's all-time favourite movies includes the line "It's 106 miles to Chicago, we have a full tank of gas, half a packet of cigarettes, it's dark, and we're wearing sunglasses". Can you name the movie? _____

15. Which one of the following is **NOT** true? (*Circle one.*)
- (a) Jeff appeared in a commercial for Caramilk chocolate bars.
 - (b) Jeff appeared in a video called "Space: The Final Answer".
 - (c) Jeff has a collection of over 200 Pokémon cards.
 - (d) Jeff created a java applet game called "Spacetag".
 - (e) Jeff has never purchased a lottery ticket.
 - (f) Jeff was 20 when he got his B.Sc.
 - (g) Jeff was a Pittsburgh Steelers fan in his youth.
 - (h) Jeff's father, mother, grandfather, uncle, and cousins taught or teach math.
16. After buying a house, what new feature did Jeff design using a mathematical calculation? (*Circle one.*)
- (a) a third-floor balcony
 - (b) a croquet lawn
 - (c) a darts room
 - (d) a movie projection room
 - (e) a sound-proofed music studio
 - (f) wooden paths in the backyard garden
17. What is Jeff's favourite beverage? _____
18. In 2006, Jeff collaborated with CBC TV's *Fifth Estate* investigation of "insider" lottery wins -- he demonstrated statistically that retailers were winning far more major lottery prizes than could be explained by chance alone. All but one of the following things happened as a consequence of this investigation; which one did **NOT** happen? (*Circle one.*)
- (a) CEO of Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation fired
 - (b) criminal convictions for fraud
 - (c) customers required to sign their lottery tickets
 - (d) Jeff's book mentioned in a *Globe and Mail* editorial
 - (e) Jeff's calculations cited in the Ontario Legislature
 - (f) lottery probability calculations added to the Grade 6 school curriculum in Ontario
 - (g) payments to rightful winners totaling over twenty million dollars
 - (h) report by the Ontario Ombudsman
 - (i) self-serve machines for ticket holders to check their tickets
19. How many countries has Jeff been to in his first 50 years of life? (*Circle one.*)
- (a) 4
 - (b) 14
 - (c) 24
 - (d) 34
 - (e) 44
20. Which one of these topics has Jeff **NOT** been interviewed about by the media? (*Circle one.*)
- (a) basketball statistics (TSN)
 - (b) the "Day of Symmetry" [i.e., 20-02-2002] (CTV, CFMT, CityTV)
 - (c) lightning probabilities (Discovery Channel)
 - (d) pedestrian deaths (*Toronto Star*)
 - (e) probability of Justin Trudeau and his brother both being born on Christmas Day (*Australian Women's Weekly*)
 - (f) les "Serial Diners" (Radio Canada)
 - (g) math and music (CBC Radio)
 - (h) "Pi Day" [i.e., 03-14-15] (CBC Radio)
 - (i) shark-attack probabilities (*Wall Street Journal*)
21. Into which one of the following languages has Jeff's book *Struck by Lightning: The Curious World of Probabilities* **NOT** been translated? (*Circle one.*)
- (a) Chinese
 - (b) Czech
 - (c) Finnish
 - (d) German
 - (e) Italian
 - (f) Japanese
 - (g) Korean
 - (h) Slovenian
 - (i) Spanish
 - (j) Turkish

22. Jeff and Margaret were married at Hart House (at U of T). Can you fill in the missing word from the aptly named room in Hart House where the ceremony took place? The _____ Room

23. All but one of the following phrases appear in the titles of Jeff's published articles about statistics / mathematics. Which phrase does **NOT** appear? (*Circle one.*)

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| (a) active-learning strategies | (b) card-dealing | (c) Conservative majority |
| (d) faithful couplings | (e) family reunion | (f) geometric ergodicity |
| (g) hybrid samplers | (h) independent particle systems | (i) infinite hierarchies |
| (j) judicial ghostwriting | (k) juvenile offense trajectories | (l) learn from thy neighbour |
| (m) lingual consonants | (n) 19th century Iceland | (o) now equals forever |
| (p) plantation data | (q) probability soup | (r) quintessential quincunx |
| (s) random walks | (t) Sleeping Beauty | (u) spectral bounds |

24. Which one of the following foods and drinks has Jeff **NOT** made? (*Circle one.*)

- (a) bannock (b) chicken cacciatore (c) curried lentils (d) frozen Margaritas
(e) milk blended with grape juice (f) raisin bran muffins (g) vegetarian lasagne

25. Which one of the following awards and honours has Jeff **NOT** been given? (*Circle one.*)

- | | |
|--|---|
| (a) Alumnus of Influence, University College | (b) Arts & Science Outstanding Teaching Award |
| (c) COPSS Presidents' Award | (d) CRM-SSC Prize |
| (e) Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada | (f) Harvard University Teaching Award |
| (g) Premier's Research Excellence Award | (h) Queen's Venturer Award |
| (i) Statistical Society of Canada Gold Medal | |

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This quiz is dedicated to the memory of Jeff's mother, Helen S. Rosenthal, who passed away on August 19, 2017.

(For a previous quiz about Jeff at his 40th birthday party in 2007, Helen's team won the top prize.)



Jeff dancing with his mother Helen at his wedding in 1999