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Amherst College student tells tale of Jeopardy!

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Amherst College senior Ben Bishop of Seattle, Wash., has been cashing in recently by answering trivia on TV game show Jeopardy!.

Bishop plays squash at Amherst and he is the second person with ties to the college to appear on the show this year.

In April, 25-year-old town resident Katherine Duke was a Jeopardy! contestant. She is a writer and editor for the Amherst College's public relations department.

Bishop's recent TV appearance was actually taped in September, but was sworn to keep his results a secret.

He spoke with a reporter from The Massachusetts Daily Collegian to answer some questions about his recent fame and success.

Question: How long have you been a fan of Jeopardy!? Do you routinely watch it?

Answer: "I watched it on and off when I was younger, but began watching it most nights when I got to college, when I had nothing to do most nights at 7:30 p.m."

Q: How did the application process work? Are they selective in choosing candidates?

A: "They advertise for an online test that they offer about once a year. I took this and then got an e-mail asking me to tryout in person in Boston. I went to that tryout, where there was a written test (to determine skill), an interview (to determine personality), and a mock-game (to make sure we could keep the game moving and answer in the form of a question)."

Q: How did you train, if at all, for the show?

A: "I went to trivia night at the Harp on Tuesdays, and read a little about topics that show up a lot (Royalty, Presidents...)"

Q: Are you given categories ahead of time?

A: "Absolutely not. All material is hidden, and they randomly select which set of questions they will use before the game."

Q: I was told that you won $25,000 on your first appearance resulting in you playing the following night, what were the results of that show?

POLL

How will you cope with finals?

- Finals!? But it's only...oh holy crap finals are next week!
- Binge drinking
- Denial
- Positive thinking, lots of sleep and healthy studying
- Caffeine, caffeine and more caffeine
- Finals are a piece of cake for me

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A: "I've won $88,800 going into Friday's show."

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