The mathematical madness behind a perfect NCAA basketball bracket

Smithsonian

(March 21, 2019) -- “The simplest thing to ask yourself is how many games of the 63 are you willing to say, ‘I will have 100 percent chance of winning,’” said Mark Ablowitz, an applied mathematics professor at CU Boulder. If all the No. 1 seeds were guaranteed to win their first-round games, and every other game were chosen at random, the probability of a perfect bracket would improve to 1 in 259.
**Geothermal power plants triggered 2017 Pohang quake**

KBS World Radio

(March 20, 2019) -- Professor Shemin Ge from CU Boulder, who co-headed the joint team’s probe, said the high-pressure water injected into one of the nearby pits vitalized an unknown fault zone, thereby triggering the quake.

“Soon after the earthquake, the questioning rose about the possible involvement in the earthquake of Korea’s first Enhanced Geothermal System and because the epicenter is located near the EGS,” Ge said.

**Weekend ‘catch-up sleep’ is a lie**

The Washington Post

(Feb. 28, 2019) -- “If there are benefits of catch-up sleep, they’re gone when you go back to your routine. It’s very short-lived,” said Kenneth Wright, director of the sleep and chronobiology laboratory at CU Boulder.

“These health effects are long-term. It’s kind of like smoking once was – people would smoke and wouldn’t see an immediate effect on their health, but people will say now that smoking is not a healthy lifestyle choice. I think sleep is in the early phase of where smoking used to be.”
**Wildlife in winter**

Telluride Daily Planet

(March 21, 2019) -- **William Bowman**, an ecology and evolutionary biology professor at CU Boulder who directs the university’s Mountain Research Station, said it can take more than one season for forage to regrow.

“If native grasses have been grazed to the point where they’ve died in spots, they’ll take a couple of years to respond” following a drought, Bowman said. “However, if the grasses haven’t been hit too hard by grazing in the past, they’ll respond well this year, and probably better next year, once they replace their reserves of stored nutrients and energy.”

**Trump wants appeals court to let him block critics on Twitter**

Bloomberg

(March 24, 2019) -- The case gives the appeals court the chance to show government officials that their decision to use social media, including Twitter, Facebook and Instagram, has consequences, said **Helen Norton**, a professor at the CU Law School.

“Government speakers need not choose to speak through platforms that permit public interaction -- for example, they can have blogs or websites without enabling comment threads,” Norton said. “When government officials speak to the public about the government’s work through platforms that permit public interaction, they enable a
forum for public comment, and the First Amendment permits them to control the content of their own posts but forbids them from controlling private parties’ participation.”

Young people are falling for scams more often than their grandparents

KOAA

(March 24, 2019) -- In 2018 people under the age of 30 were fooled and paid scammers more often than any other age group. College students have become a popular and rewarding target for scammers and fraudsters. In Colorado Springs UCCS Police Chief Marc Pino says he’s seen the impact.

“Students fall victim to this type of crime; it ranges from a couple hundred dollars to thousands of dollars,” Pino said.

Colorado Springs unemployment rate inches up to 3½-year high

The Gazette

(March 15, 2019) -- “When the unemployment rate falls below 4 percent, that is often a sign of the economy overheating, and sometimes triggers a slowdown,” said Tatiana Bailey, director of the UCCS Economic Forum. “In
this case, it looks like job growth and the unemployment rate are leveling off, and I would rather have more moderate and sustainable growth than booms and busts.”

Honoring Helen Hunt Jackson’s legacy: Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum provides intimate look into life of renowned local author

The Gazette

(March 13, 2019) -- For a decade — 1875 to 1885 — Helen Hunt Jackson resided here, becoming one of the most famous authors of her time. Last month at the Colorado Springs Pioneer Museum, Lesley Ginsberg shared the story of Jackson’s remarkable life and rise to fame. Ginsberg, a professor at UCCS, is well-versed in 19th century American literature.

Most voters favor firefighters’ collective bargaining Issue 1

Colorado Springs Independent

(March 12, 2019) – It might come as a surprise, considering that El Paso County is a GOP stronghold where Republicans – who generally oppose unions and outnumber Democrats nearly two to one – support the firefighters’ Issue 1. But not to Joshua Dunn, professor and chair of the department of political science at UCCS.
“Public safety and first responders generally have high levels of support among the public,” Dunn said. “If you have something about firefighters or police, you’re going to get a decent number of people supportive if it’s interpreted to be in favor of first responders.”

**Ent Center director works to raise profile of ‘very robust’ arts scene in Colorado Springs**

The Gazette

(Feb. 28, 2019) -- [Aisha Ahmad-Post](#) had a clear and ambitious goal: to become the principal bassist for the New York Philharmonic. But years of practice toward that goal took a toll on her body. And when an injury forced her to abandon that dream, she set on a new career path — one that eventually would lead her from the Big Apple to Colorado Springs and a job as director of the new Ent Center for the Arts at UCCS.
As riders pick Uber and Lyft, Denver may need less parking

The Denver Post

(March 13, 2019) -- The study by a researcher and CU Denver professor found that since more than a quarter of the hundreds of riders surveyed would have driven themselves otherwise, their ride-hitching choice meant they no longer needed a parking spot at their destination.

“With this new study, it is nice to show that these companies aren’t all bad — and that our ability to reduce parking can definitely be one of the benefits,” said Wesley Marshall, associate professor at the CU Denver College of Engineering, Design and Computing and director of the Transportation Research Center.

Margarita Bianco named among Top 35 Women in Higher Education

Diverse Issues in Higher Education

(March 21, 2019) -- CU Denver’s Margarita Bianco is an honoree among the 2019 class of leading women in higher education. Bianco, a professor in the School of Education and Human Development, is the founder and executive director of Pathways2Teaching, an innovative pre-collegiate program designed to encourage high school students of color to enter the teacher workforce as a way to disrupt educational inequities.
**Kafer: Overpaying for prestigious degree is also a scam**

The Denver Post

(March 14, 2019) – “What do Colorado House Majority Leader Alec Garnett, House Minority Leader Patrick Neville, Senate President Pro Tempore Lois Court, Denver Mayor Michael Hancock, Chairwoman of the Colorado Democratic Party Morgan Carroll, Colorado State Treasurer Dave Young, Singer Isaac Slade of The Fray, Tuba/Bass Virtuoso Jeanie Schroder of Devotchka and I all have in common? We are University of Colorado Denver alumni.”

**How John Hickenlooper defied the odds in 2003, and how he might do it again in 2020**

The Denver Post

(March 10, 2019) -- “You can be a totally unknown candidate in an early stage of the race and go on to win the election,” said Tony Robinson, chair of the political science department of CU Denver. Robinson, a Denver City Council candidate in 2003, witnessed firsthand how Hickenlooper pulled it off.

“Ari Zavaras and Don Mares, those were clearly the two titans in the mayoral race. And Hickenlooper came out of nowhere and had a strategy to win the election.”
**Full-day kindergarten works, educators say. Paying for it remains Colorado’s challenge**

The Denver Post

(March 17, 2019) -- “The thing we want to establish is that it works,” said Rebecca Kantor, dean of the School of Education and Human Development at CU Denver. “We know that from multiple studies — national and local — that children who are in full-day programs make significant gains in early reading and math by the end compared to their peers who attend a half-day program.”

**Are cows key to edible chemotherapy?**

KSAT

(March 5, 2019) – “Some drugs just cannot survive the condition in the stomach,” said Tom Anchordoquy, a pharmaceutical scientist at the CU Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. Anchordoquy has found an unusual way to change that – he is putting powerful drugs into raw milk. “It’d make things a lot easier and cheaper,” he said.
The measles emergency: What are religious exemptions?

The New York Times

(March 27, 2019) -- Health and community leaders have stressed open communication between health officials and religious leaders to bridge cultural divides. In Colorado, Joshua Williams, an assistant professor of pediatrics at the CU School of Medicine, has recommended that the groups talk at specific times, such as when the academic year begins or at the start of influenza season, and not just during a health crisis. He is also working with the state’s Council of Churches to hold sessions with parishioners to hear their concerns.

Also:

- God, country and chickenpox: How an outbreak entangled one school in a vaccine showdown, The Washington Post, March 19
- One more time, with big data: Measles vaccine doesn't cause autism, New York Times, March 5

One in three young adults suffers from loneliness in U.S.

U.S. News and World Report

(March 11, 2019) -- The study surveyed people at one point in time. So it's not clear whether loneliness preceded -- and possibly contributed to -- people’s poorer health, said lead researcher Rebecca Mullen. It’s possible the
relationship goes in both directions -- with loneliness and health issues feeding each other, added Mullen, an assistant professor at the CU School of Medicine. In talking about loneliness, it's important to distinguish it from time spent alone, said Maddux.

“People who are more introverted may be perfectly happy with their alone time,” Maddux explained.

### Arthritis in the knees

**U.S. News and World Report**

(March 8, 2019) -- Osteoarthritis doesn’t have to sideline you. “An arthritic knee still loves to move. It’s just a matter of finding the right type of lower-impact activity to keep an individual active and functional,” says Sourav Poddar, director of the primary care sports medicine program at the CU School of Medicine.

“Women are more likely than men to develop osteoarthritis in the knee,” Poddar said. It’s unclear why, but some evidence suggests that low estrogen levels after menopause may play a role.

### El Paso County declared ‘Second Amendment Preservation County’ as Legislature weighs red flag gun bill

**The Gazette**

(March 21, 2019) -- Erik Wallace said that burden of proof
is on the petitioner who is seeking to have a person declared dangerous. The proposal does “not violate the Second Amendment rights of anyone who is not in immediate danger of killing themselves or anyone else,” said Wallace, associate dean for the CU School of Medicine’s branch in Colorado Springs.