



College of Science and Mathematics

Big Data Lecture Series

Thursday, April 20, 2017 // CLENDENIN 1009

11:00AM – 1:30PM

Lunch will be served

“What is an Upset Anyway?”



Every year during the NCAA Men’s Basketball tournament (March Madness), there are upsets, games in which a team that is not expected to win actually wins. Using data from the last 33 tournaments, we try to answer the question, “How unexpected are some of those upsets?” We use logistic regression to model the probability of a win based on the seedings of the two teams competing in the game. We use a heat map to display the probabilities of winning as a function of the seedings and try to decide how unexpected some upsets really are.

Dr. Lewis VanBrackle is a Professor of Statistics and Chair of the Department of Statistics and Analytical Sciences at Kennesaw State University. He has B.S. and M.S. degrees in Physics from Georgia Institute of Technology and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Statistics from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. Lewis joined Kennesaw State in 1984 after working as an oil-field engineer in Brazil, a Member of the Technical Staff at Bell Telephone Laboratories and an Associate Staff Manager at BellSouth. He has been a Visiting Scientist at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and has co-authored papers in areas as diverse as epidemiology, biology, computer science education, nursing, linguistics, quality control and Six Sigma methodology.