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News From the Graduate School - Educational Mathematics Spring 2022

Otterbein Office of Graduate Programs

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Graduate School News Highlights



From **Bridget M. Newell, Ph.D. Interim Associate Provost for Graduate Studies**

Resolutions. Distractions. Focus.

It's now mid-February. A month ago, at the start of the new year, many of us made resolutions. We may have wanted to exercise more, eat less "junk," stay in better touch with those who are far from us. We wanted to better ourselves in some way. For some of you, this meant entering a graduate program at Otterbein. For others, this meant recommitting to graduate school and your courses at Otterbein. We were all so ready, weren't we? [Continue reading >>](#)

Graduate School Events

Spring 2022

Graduate School Lecture Series

March 22, 2022 | 6:30 p.m. | Towers 112

Graduate Student Conference

April 14, 2022 | 5 p.m. | Science Center

Graduate School Commencement

May 1, 2022 | 5:30 p.m. | Otterbein's Memorial Stadium

Educational Mathematics -- Ted Lasso's BELIEVE versus Reality

Fans of television's *Ted Lasso* will understand the power of BELIEVE. Unfortunately, mathematics paints a very different picture when predicting who will win soccer matches for

under-sourced teams. According to [PHYS.ORG](https://www.phys.org), in a recent article from *Royal Society Open Science*, Oxford researchers Victor Martins Maimone and Taha Yasserli report on their findings from an analysis of 88,000 professional football (soccer) matches. The data were collected spanning the years 1993-2019 and included records from teams across the globe, including Scotland, Greece, Turkey, Spain, Belgium, and England's Premier League.

Maimone and Yasserli constructed a mathematical model that accurately predicts game winners an astonishing 75% of the time. What's more, their statistics became increasingly accurate as the model was tested over the course of years, with outcomes becoming easier and easier to predict. In fact, when the researchers ran the data from the latter years, results conclusively showed inequality of resources as the largest leading predictive factor in their analysis.

It seems belief can only get you so far. Oh, and home field advantage — that's a myth. Sorry, Ted. [Read on the Web >>](#)

Jeff Smith, Ph.D.
MAEM Graduate Director

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