## **DMS Launches Hybrid and Remote Instruction**

In response to the ongoing COVID crisis, the Department of Mathematical Sciences has successfully transitioned all of its courses to the University's new Synchronized Hybrid and Remote Synchronized course schedules. These efforts will minimize risks to all members of the University by limiting in-person exposure and maintaining safe social distancing in the classroom while still delivering quality instruction to our students.

Combatting the spread of COVID is a particularly important task for our department. General education math courses are taken by a wide variety of students from a myriad of disciplines across the Lincoln community, making them one of many possible vectors for an infection to spread across peer groups.

In addition to various safety measures, the department also took steps to ensure that all instructors were fully prepared to host their remote classes from home. Each instructor was required to demonstrate his or her setup during a series of department meetings last month. DMS faculty have also adapted their courses to allow all assignments to be submitted digitally, typically through Moodle or the WebAssign platform from Cengage, removing the passage of paper as a possible infection vector.

While the COVID pandemic has been trying for many, it has also proven a source of significant innovation. In adapting to the need for remote instruction, the department has automated much of our grading load. Some intro-level courses like MAT-101 and MAT-102 already had automated grading through ALEKS, but the use of WebAssign has now allowed us to extend this automation to most of our other courses. Considering that the entire Lincoln community must now manage safety protocols, Zoom accounts, video and audio equipment, and more, the department hopes that this reduced grading load will help smoothen the transition for all our faculty, staff, and students.

## Department of Mathematical Sciences Faculty and Staff

Dr. Maiko Arichi
Dr. Zachary Carson
Dr. Michael Faulkner
Dr. Moses Haimbodi
Dr. Panakkal Mathew
Dr. Patrick Mwerinde
Dr. Ranjan Naik
Dr. Claude Tameze
Dr. Penglong Xu
Dr. Vesna Zeljkovic
Dr. Tong Banh
Dr. Moses Haimbodi
Dr. Ranjan Naik
Dr. Claude Tameze
Dr. Ken Zheng