

## DMS Student Wins Best Undergraduate Poster Award at University of Delaware's 2023 Data Science Symposium

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On Friday September 22, Lincoln University students Iteoluwa Ibitoye, Mitchel Igolimah and Feranmi Adepoju presented their summer research in a poster session at the 2023 Data Science Symposium, hosted by the University of Delaware. These three outstanding students conducted their research under the guidance of LU faculty members Prof. Abel Ayele, Dr. Dejene Dedefa, and Dr. Christine Limb, respectively. Other LU attendees at the Data Science Symposium included Dr. Claude Tameze, who participated in a panel on equitable opportunities in data science, and Dr. Zachary Carson.



From left to right: Dr. Zachary Carson, Dr. Claude Tameze, Feranmi Adepoju, Mitchel Igolimah, Dr. Federica Bianco (from UD), Iteoluwa Ibitoye, Prof. Abel Ayele, and Dr. Dejene Dedefa.

In addition to her poster presentation, Iteoluwa Ibitoye, a junior and double major in Mathematics and Computer Science, was selected to give a lightning talk and won the award for Best Poster in the undergraduate category for her research: "Data Alignment Techniques in Railway Track Inspection: A Comparative Study." In this research, Iteoluwa analyzed spatially misaligned railway track geometry data from three inspection runs using Cross-Correlation, Dynamic Time Warping (DTW), and Recurrent Neural Network (RNN) algorithms. Comparing the result of these analyses, cross-correlation was identified

as the best performing algorithm for this type of data. Iteoluwa's research was supervised by Prof. Abel Ayele.

All three students' summer research was funded by the Delaware and Mid-Atlantic DS Corps grant, a NSF grant obtained in 2021 by the above-mentioned Lincoln faculty in collaboration with faculty from the University of Delaware and Delaware State University. This grant is intended in part to develop a data science incubator that will help provide more educational and employment opportunities for underrepresented students in the field of Data Science.

## New DMS Department Chair

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The Department of Mathematical Sciences welcomes Mr. Daniel Talasnik (pictured right) as our new MLC coordinator. A roll previously filled by Professor Abel Ayele, the MLC Coordinator is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Math Learning Center. This includes all math placement tests, the ALEKS-based labs for MAT-101 and MAT-102, and the center's many student tutors. Because the MLC provides support for students taking math courses at Lincoln University, Mr. Talasnik will be work closely with both the Academic Support Unit and our department.



When asked about his experience here at Lincoln so far, Mr. Talasnik had this to say:

I've thoroughly enjoyed working with college students throughout my career as a faculty member, so now I'm looking forward to embracing my administrative and student support roles as MLC Coordinator to enhance and enrich the lives of students as they navigate their mathematics journeys.

Under Mr. Talasnik's leadership, the MLC has already conducted the math placement tests for Fall 2022 and hired a new team of student tutors. So a hearty "thank you" to Mr. Talasnik for his excellent work and rapid engagement with the Lincoln community. We look forward to working with him for years to come.