

SAMSA e-bulletin



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Notices

- The 2015 SAMSA conference will be held in Namibia
- SAMSA was again awarded CIMPA funding for the conference in Namibia 2015. The president would like to thank the executive for the collective team effort and Prof Giulia Di Nnuno for such great support
- The African Women Mathematics Association (AWMA) will hold a conference in Mombasa Kenya, 16-18 July 2015. Visit: <http://prmasi.org/Amwa%20announcement.pdf>

Message from the President

Dear SAMSA members and readers,

On behalf of the SAMSA Executive, I welcome you all to this first Issue of the *SAMSA Newsletter 2015*. As highlighted in the first bulletin, the newsletter will be used for announcements, providing information about upcoming events and our conferences. There is a lot happening among SAMSA members and in our institutions that we need to share and update each other on. For this newsletter to keep flowing, it requires involvement of and participation by all SAMSA members. Therefore, I encourage each one of you to contribute articles and news items to the editorial team headed by the President. Let us share our success stories, challenges, let's say, anything of interest to SAMSA membership and readership of the Newsletter.

This first Issue has exciting news of what went on at the SAMSA 2014 conference in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. The conference in Victoria Falls was well attended and generally received a satisfactory evaluation by the delegates as you will see from the results of the evaluation once they are released.

With assistance from Auburn University under the MASAMU Program led by Prof. Overton Jenda, the SAMSA website is now fully operational, see www.samsa-math.org. The website provides a platform for enhanced communication and exchange of ideas and information. Let us utilize this facility fully when time comes. SAMSA is indebted to the MASAMU Project for the assistance. For the first time, SAMSA had the opportunity to award the prestigious Kovalevskaja Research Grants to female mathematicians in sub-Saharan Africa. The organization was honored to host Professor Neal Koblitz from the Kovalevskaja Fund. Two recipients were each awarded research grants valued at USD2500 for a total of USD5000. SAMSA is grateful to the Kovalevskaja Fund. These grants will be awarded biennially.

SAMSA members continue to shine. We share the joys of two distinguished members— Promotions in 2014. Dr Simon Mukwembi, Dr Juma Kasozi were promoted to Associate

Professorship. Professor Wandera Ogana is the new President of the Commission for Developing Countries (CDC), a commission of the International Mathematical Union (IMU), for the period 2015 – 2018. He becomes the first African to hold this position. Lastly, I would like to wish every member of SAMSA a fruitful and fulfilling 2015. I hope you will enjoy reading this first bulletin of 2015 and trust that you will send your articles for the next Issues.

Prof Farai Nyabadza
SAMSA President



SAMSA 2014

The Executive committee of SAMSA and the general membership would like to thank the National University of Science and Technology in Zimbabwe, the LOC chair Prof SD Hove-Musekwa and her team for a wonderful SAMSA 2014 conference.

We also thank the partners of SAMSA and all the sponsors who made the event possible and a delight. A special thank you to the Kovalevskaja Fund, for the research grants for our female mathematicians. To all who participated in the conference we say,

THANK YOU



On SAMSA 2014 and the MASAMU Program



From 24th – 28th November 2014, the annual colloquium of the Southern African Mathematical Sciences Association (SAMSA) returned to one of the seven wonders of the world, The Victoria Falls, at the magnificent Elephant Hills Hotel in the town of Victoria falls, Zimbabwe. It was held under the theme *Mathematical journeys: From theories in mathematical sciences to knowledge for building our communities*. The conference brought together about 122 participants including keynote speakers, researchers and students from Europe, America, Asia and Africa. During the conference, an AGM was held and attended by about 50 delegates who elected a new executive as follows:- **President:** Prof F. Nyabadza (South Africa), **Vice President:** Prof. Sandile Motsa (South Africa), **Secretary:** Dr. Peter Mhone

(Malawi), **Treasurer:** Dr. Moatlhodi Kgosimore (Botswana), **Committee Members:** Dr. F. Chirove (South Africa), Prof F. Rakotondrajao (Madagascar), and Prof J. Kasozi (Uganda).



MASAMU program

The MASAMU program ran from the 21st to the 30th of November 2014, concurrently with the SAMSA conference. The MASAMU program was held at Azambezi Hotel. This was the fourth Masamu US-Africa Advanced Study Institute and Workshops in Mathematical Sciences under the MASAMU program, a collaborative effort between African, United Kingdom, and US mathematicians led by Professor Overtoun Jenda from Auburn University and supported by the National Science Foundation (NSF, USA).

Donations

SAMSA as an organisation is grateful for wonderful partnerships that enhance and enrich mathematicians in the region. At the 2014 SAMSA conference, the Mathematical Association of America (MAA), made a donation of books to the SAMSA community through the MASAMU program. The titles of the books are: **AHA! Solutions** by Martin Erickson; **Writing in the teaching and Learning of Mathematics** by John Meier and Thomas Rishel; and **Problems from Murray Klamkin** edited by Andy Liu and Bruce Shawyer. SAMSA is thankful to the Mathematical Association of America and to Prof Jenda and his team for thinking about SAMSA during the year and in their activities. Also donated was a table cloth for use in SAMSA activities. The SAMSA membership is grateful for such a gesture.



SAMSA 2015



SAMSA will be thirty-four years in December 2015 and the SAMSA conference will be held in Namibia. The dates and venues of the conferences will be communicated in the conference call.

The New Executive



From left: *Dr F. Chirove (Com. member), Dr. P. Mhone (Secretary), Prof. J. Kasozi (Com. member), Prof F. Nyabadza (President), Dr. M. Kgosimore (Treasure), Prof S. Motsa (Vice President) and Prof F. Rakotondrajao (Com. member)*

SAMSA 2014, was an elective meeting. During the biennial general meeting, new members were elected to carry SAMSA through the next two years. This team has already sat and put forward some ambitious targets to drive SAMSA ahead. Some of the commitments are to increase the participation of women mathematicians in SAMSA activities, the improvement of SAMSA's finances, consolidation and improving the impact of SAMSA partnerships. On behalf of the team I would like to thank the membership for showing confidence in the new team.

Awards winners

Kovalevskaja Awards

For the first time in its history, SAMSA is delighted, through the Kovalevskaja Fund (<http://kovfund.org>), to have honoured its female mathematicians in sub-Saharan Africa. The award was presented in two parts: one for Pure Mathematics and the other for Applied Mathematics. The award was valued at 5000USD and was shared equally among the two recipients.

The, SAMSA executive and the membership, would like to express their sincere thanks and gratitude for the honour that Prof Neal Koblitz and his wife Prof Ann Hibner Koblitz, the directors of the Kovalevskaja Fund, for their dedication to advance women mathematicians globally and for the honour Prof Neal Koblitz accorded us to come and attend the conference and inaugurate the Kovalevskaja Research Awards in Africa (see insert below). SAMSA commits to publicize this award. To date this is one of the best initiatives in SAMSA that will encourage a lot of female mathematicians to do research .

On this page:

1. *The new team*
2. *Awards*



From left: *Prof O. Jenda, Ms. B. N. Kiratu (recipient), Dr T. Marijani (recipient), Prof E.M. Lungu, Prof N. Koblitz, Prof F. Nyabadza.*