

# SAMSA e-bulletin



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## Notices

- The 2013 SAMSA conference will be held from the 25th to the 29th of November 2013.
- The call for proposal of CIMPA schools. Members can take advantage. Visit: <http://www.cimpa-icpam.org/spip.php?article124>
- MARM Roundtable - 20th June 2013, see page 4
- Awards for Prof. D. Makinde and Dr SD Hove Musekwa

## 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*, which will be published quarterly as a tool for communication. Among other things, the bulletin 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 Vice 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 activities that are taking place in SAMSA. Straight from SAMSA2012 in Lilongwe, the LOC for SAMSA2013 in Cape Town has released the first call, and it is my expectation that you will respond in good time, sending abstracts of the papers that you will present in your various areas of research that you are working on. The conference in Lilongwe was well attended and generally received a good evaluation by the delegates. Publication of the proceedings is almost complete. There are of course areas for improvement, including timely submission of abstracts. Late submission impedes proper planning by the LOCs.

With assistance from Auburn University under the MASAMU Program led by Prof. Overton Jenda, construction of a new SAMSA website, [www.samsa-math.org](http://www.samsa-math.org) that will include emails and listserv hosting, is progressing very well and will be launched soon. This will provide 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.

Auditing of the SAMSA accounts for the year ending 31st December 2012 has been completed and annual returns submitted to the

Registrar of Societies. The financial report will be posted on the website as soon as it is launched. We are currently awaiting the management report from the auditors which we believe will help the Association to improve and maintain controls as per international standards and smooth execution of transactions.

SAMSA members continue to shine. We share the joys of two distinguished members- Dr. S.D Hove-Musekwa and Professor O.D. Makinde- who recently won the 2012 Megafest Personality award, and voted fellow of Africa Academy of Sciences, respectively.

Lastly, one challenge that we must think about is that of secretariat. If we mobilize resources, we would love to have an office space and postal address, and have someone to man it on part-time for a start. This is food for thought.

I hope you will enjoy reading this first bulletin and trust that you will send your articles for the next Issues.

Dr. Levis Keliyasi Eneya  
**SAMSA President**



## From the editor's desk

This is the first of our quarterly news letters for the association. We are proud to be of service to the SAMSA community and look forward to this news letter becoming a regular feature of our notifications.

This news letter will be produced quarterly and intends to be a source of information on the developments within the mathematics community in Southern Africa. It will therefore carry news on what is happening within the departments of mathematics, national mathematics forums, achievements of mathematicians in the region.

The newsletter will also carry announcements on any event of interest to Mathematicians in the region. So events such as workshops, conferences, meetings, funding calls, fellowships, scholarships and any other opportunities of interest to our members will find their way through this news letter.

In the past, usually the secretary would forward messages to the list. This will not stop but in addition, the messages will also appear in our news letter as reminders.

We are therefore encouraging members to always take part of their precious time to inform the general membership about developments in their countries that may be of interest to the mathematics community in the region. News items should be forwarded to [nyabadzaf@sun.ac.za](mailto:nyabadzaf@sun.ac.za)

**Prof. F. Nyabadza**

### Awards winners

#### Dr SD Hove-Musekwa

It is with great pleasure that the SAMSA Executive and Membership note the achievements of a long standing member of SAMSA. We share the joy with the Musekwa family.

Dr Senelani Hove-Musekwa, from the Department of Applied Mathematics at the University of Science and Technology in Zimbabwe is a recent winner of the 2012 Megafest Personality award for her work as project coordinator in the NUSTSEP programme and Research Council of Zimbabwe Health Science Award recipient in the just ended International Research Symposium in Harare. Congratulations!!!!



*Dr S Hove-Musekwa from the Department of Applied Mathematics displaying the her recent awards*

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2. *Awards*

#### Prof OD Makinde



Professor O.D. Makinde was voted in as a Fellow of the African Academy of Sciences 2012. The AAS fellowship program is an initiative to honour and acknowledge African scientists who have become internationally renowned in their respective fields. This is a very prestigious award and fellows are elected following a rigorous review process. Congratulations to Prof Makinde for the well deserved award. You are an inspiration to many of the SAMSA membership!!!!

## On SAMSA 2012 and the MASAMU Program

From 26<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> November 2012, the annual colloquium of the Southern African Mathematical Sciences Association (SAMSA) returned to the Warm Heart of Africa, Malawi, at Crossroads Hotel in the Capital City, Lilongwe. It was held under the theme *Strengthening Mathematics and its applications*. The conference brought together about 80 participants including keynote speakers, researchers and students from Europe, America, Asia and Africa. During the conference, an AGM was held attended by about 50 delegates who elected a new executive as follows:-

**President:** Dr. Levis Eneya (Malawi), **Vice President:** Prof. Farai Nyabadza (South Africa), **Secretary:** Dr. Peter Mhone (Malawi), **Treasurer:** Dr. Moatlhodi Kgosimore (Botswana), **Committee Members:** Prof. S. Shateyi (South Africa), Ms Mervis Kikonko (Zambia), and Dr. John Mango (Uganda).



### MASAMU program

After the conference, from 29<sup>th</sup> November – 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2012, SAMSA held the second 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).



# SAMSA 2013



Stellenbosch University



Cape Peninsula University

SAMSA will be thirty-two years in December 2013 and for the first time in its history, the SAMSA conference will be held in Cape Town known for its beauty and tourist attractions. The conference will be co-hosted by the four leading Universities in the city namely University of Cape Town (UCT), University of Stellenbosch (US), University of Western Cape (UWC) and Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT). In the past 32 years of its existence, SAMSA has managed to get sponsorships from Norway through the NUFU and NOMA programmes that has seen at least 100 students graduating with Masters and/or Ph.D degrees in Mathematical Modelling. SAMSA is also in partnership with the Auburn University, US through the Masamu programme whose main emphasis is research in Mathematical Sciences.

**Theme:** The theme for the conference will be “ **Capacity building in the Mathematical Sciences: prospects, successes and challenges in the Southern African context.**”

**Date:** 25<sup>th</sup> November to 29<sup>th</sup> November 2013.

**Venue:** University of Cape Town , Mathematics Department



University of Western Cape



University of Cape Town

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## **Mentoring African Research in Mathematics (MARM)**

The Department of Mathematics, Kenyatta University, Nairobi, Kenya, will host a workshop on Mathematical Modelling from 17<sup>th</sup> June to 21<sup>st</sup> June 2013. On Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2013, there will be a roundtable on Mentoring African Research in Mathematics (MARM) organized by the African Mathematics Millennium Science Initiative (AMMSI).

[www.lms.ac.uk/content/mentoring-african-research-mathematics](http://www.lms.ac.uk/content/mentoring-african-research-mathematics)

## **Meet the LOC**

1. Prof. F. Nyabadza (LOC Chair) Stellenbosch University
2. Prof. F. Benyah University of Western Cape
3. Dr. S. Mataramvura University of Cape Town
4. Dr. T. Chinyoka University of Cape Town
5. Dr. C. Makasu University of Western Cape

## **Visit to Botswana College of Agriculture**

Prof F. Nyabadza, visited the Botswana college of Agriculture on Dr Moatlhodi Kgosimore's invitation. This was a research visit whose sole aim was to cement research collaborations . He gave a seminar entitled, “Mathematical modeling of agricultural systems.” The talk generated a lot of interest among students and researchers. Prof. Nyabadza acknowledges the support of Stellenbosch University for funding the visit.