

## Inaugural Kovalevskaja Research Grants for Upcoming Female Mathematicians Awarded in Southern Africa



On 26 November 2014 in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, the Southern Africa Mathematical Sciences Association (SAMSA) gave out its first Kovalevskaja Research Grants.

The Kovalevskaja Research Grants is an initiative of the Kovalevskaja Fund and SAMSA, within the Masamu Program aiming at encouraging upcoming female mathematicians from the sub-Saharan Africa. The grant is awarded to female candidates from the region who have demonstrated outstanding work with respect to research and publications in pure or applied mathematics. According to the agreement between SAMSA and the Kovalevskaja Fund, two awards worth US\$2500 each will be given every two years, one in pure and one in applied mathematics.

The 2014 awardees are Beth Kiratu and Dr. Theresia Marijani. Beth Kiratu is studying functional analysis, and is expecting her PhD from the University of Nairobi in Kenya in 2016. Her research is devoted to generalizing and extending the existing results on the Weyl spectra of higher classes of operators on a Hilbert space. Dr. Marijani was a student participant in the inaugural 2011 Masamu Advanced Study Institute run by Auburn University in Livingstone, Zambia. She received her PhD in 2012 from the University of Stellenbosch in Cape Town, South Africa, and is currently on the faculty at the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania. She works in mathematical biology, with her main focus on applying statistics and mathematical modeling to malaria. Dr. Marijani has mentored an unusually large number of Masters students, including several women.

The Masamu Program is a unit of SAMSA and is administered by Auburn University.