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#### Welcome

On the 2nd of September staff of the SAMF united for South Africa with an internal casual day. All of us would like to wish you a Happy Festive Season and School Holiday.

We have recently joined the digital age on Facebook and Twitter. Please follow our activities online by following the links below.

<http://twitter.com/#!/MathsFoundation> (Click the follow button)

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/SA-Math-Foundation-SAMF/159470794123049> (Click the like button)



#### Annual Awards Evening

15 October marked the highlight on the SAMF year calendar - that of the Annual Awards Evening. During his opening address Prof Dirk Laurie said: "Tonight we honour the learners who have won prizes in various learner development programmes organised by the SAMF."

More than 40 learners received awards, sponsored by Harmony Gold Mining Company, the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants, the Actuarial Society of SA and AfriSam.

For the full list of prize winners, please visit our [Facebook Page](#).

#### National Maths Week



1-5 August celebrated National Math Week. The activities received a lot of public interest. Some of the activities that took place were: games, competitions, quizzes, puzzles, calculator contests, teacher development workshops and career guidance.

In the Eastern Cape region, learners had the opportunity to listen to Don Thomas of NASA

#### SA Math Olympiad

The final round of the SAMO took place on 7 September. 188 learners from high schools across the country took part. The top learners will be invited to our annual camp hosted by the University of Stellenbosch from 6 to 11 December.

The national medallists received their awards at the SAMF's annual award function in Cape Town on 15 October 2011. The overall winners were:  
Chris Kim, Grade 9, Raddam House College (Junior)  
Dylan Nelson, Grade 11, Benoni High School (Senior)

On the right are learners writing the final round at the Afrikaanse Hoër Seunskool.



## Jet SA Math Challenge

Whilst high school learners sat with their heads bent over math problems on 7 September, primary school pupils did the same. This challenge was previously known as the AMESA Math Challenge but a recent sponsorship from Jet, in an attempt to make a significant contribution to the state of mathematics education in the country, saw it change its name. AMESA (Association for Mathematics Education in South Africa) is still strongly involved in the competition.

## Silver & Bronze for the International Maths Olympiad Team

Since 1992 South Africa has been an active participating country in the largest and oldest Olympiad for the exact sciences. The South African team is made up by Ashraf Moolla (Rondebosch Boys' High School), Dalian Sunder (Star College), Dylan Nelson (Benoni High School), Kira Düsterwald (Springfield Convent Senior), Robert Spencer (Westerford High School) and Sean Wentzel (Westerford High School). They have been training under the watchful eyes of team leaders Prof Stephan Wagner and Dr Koos van Zyl.



Sean Wentzel, who would like to pursue a career in computer science research, is ecstatic with his silver medal. "I am satisfied with my performance and really enjoyed the experience." The five years he has been training for Olympiad mathematics has paid off.

The two bronze medallists are Kira Düsterwald and Ashraf Moolla.

With these results team South Africa is ranked 41st in the world. The top countries, in this order, are China, America and Singapore. Prof Stephan Wagner said that the South African team has had its best IMO since 2004 and is really proud of the team's performance.

The SAMF, as the organizers of the South African team, and Harmony Gold Mining, who sponsored the team's travel expenses, would like to congratulate the team on their performance.

## Southern African Interprovincial Math Olympiad

The Western Cape's junior and senior A-teams came out tops at the 22nd Southern African Interprovincial Math Olympiad held on 10 September. This year 23 teams for 10 regions participated. It was great to see some new teams like Swaziland and the two Siyanqoba teams from Limpopo and UKZN – these are special training projects of the SAMF.

Proudly sponsored by the Actuarial Society of South Africa, this competition is key in the development of problem solving for learners throughout the country.



Winners of the junior division: Western Province A



Winners of the senior division: Western Province A

## In the News

Francois Conradie, Ralf Kistner and Dirk-B Coetzee are three former SAMO medallists who has just become the first ever Matie team to qualify for the world final of the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) International Collegiate Programming Contest (ICPC). They were crowned as the best team from Africa and the Middle East.

The research excellence of Prof Stephan Wagner has been recognised by the Royal Society of South Africa with the award of their prestigious Meiring Naude Medal. This annual award celebrates the scientific achievement of talented young scientists under the age of 35. Prof Wagner's prolific publication record and impressive research ability in the fields of combinatorics, number theory and graph theory has also been recognised at Stellenbosch University through his promotion to associate professor in January 2010. Prof Wagner is a member of the South African Mathematics Olympiad Committee and Team Leader of the SA Team that took part in the International Mathematical Olympiad in July this year.

Prof André Weideman, also a member of the South African Mathematics Olympiad Committee, together with Prof Wagner has also been awarded the Stellenbosch University's Rectors Award for Excellence in Research.

