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Lai-Sang Young to deliver AWM-SIAM Sonia Kovalevsky Lecture

The Association for Women in Mathematics (AWM) and the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) have selected Lai-Sang Young to deliver the prestigious Sonia Kovalevsky Lecture at the 2007 SIAM Conference on Applications of Dynamical Systems. Young is the Henry & Lucy Moses Professor of Science at New York University's Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences. The Kovalevsky Lecture recognizes her fundamental contributions in the field of ergodic theory and dynamical systems. Her pioneering research has had a significant impact in the investigation of dynamical complexity, strange attractors and probabilistic laws of chaotic systems. Her interests include theory, applications and deep connections to mathematical physics and probability. She is an inspiration to the entire mathematics community, especially to the women's mathematics community.

Young was born in Hong Kong and emigrated to the United States to pursue higher education in mathematics at the University of Wisconsin, Madison (BA, 1973) and the University of California, Berkeley (MS, 1976; PhD, 1978). Prior to joining the faculty of Courant she held faculty positions at Northwestern University, Michigan State University, the University of Arizona, and the University of California, Los Angeles with visiting appointments to the University of Warwick, the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute, Universität Bielefeld, the Institute for Advanced Study, and the Institut des Hautes Études Scientifiques, among others. Chaotic dynamical systems are her specialty; the main themes of her research interests are measurements of dynamical complexity, strange attractors,

cumulative effects of small random perturbations on long term behavior of dynamical systems, and probabilistic laws for chaotic systems. Young is the author or co-author of over 50 scholarly publications as well as numerous expository articles.

Young's work has been supported by the National Science Foundation since 1979 and has garnered wide respect and acclaim. In 1985, she was awarded an Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Fellowship, an award reserved for individuals who demonstrate "the most outstanding promise of making fundamental contributions to new knowledge" within six years of earning a PhD. In 1993, she was awarded the Ruth Lynn Satter Prize for sustained outstanding research contributions over a five-year period by a female mathematician. In 1997, she won a Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship, and in 2004 she was elected as a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Young was the 2005 AWM Noether Lecturer at the Joint Mathematics Meetings in Atlanta, Georgia.

Barbara Keyfitz, Past President of AWM, remarks "with the choice of Lai-Sang Young to give the Kovalevsky lecture within two years of her Noether lecture, two independent selection committees have recognized the importance of Young's work." Cathy Kessel, President of AWM, adds "the award is especially appropriate—Young is a very distinguished mathematician and her research extends the field in which Kovalevsky did her most significant work."



The 2007 SIAM Conference on Applications of Dynamical Systems will be held May 28-June 1, 2007 in Snowbird, UT. The lecture honors Sonia Kovalevsky (1850-1891), the most widely known Russian mathematician of the late 19th century. In 1874, Kovalevsky received her Doctor of Philosophy degree from the University of Gottingen. She was appointed lecturer at the University of Stockholm in 1883. Kovalevsky did her most important work in the theory of differential equations. Past Kovalevsky lecturers are Ingrid Daubechies (Princeton University), Joyce R. McLaughlin (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute), Linda R. Petzold (University of California, Santa Barbara), and Irene Fonseca (Carnegie Mellon University).