Mae Jemison U.S. SCIENCE reading room

Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 7

July 2009

HIV/AIDS Awareness

Executive Director of GapBuster Learning Center Dr. Yvette Butler and her team of peer educators ran a frank and lively workshop on HIV/AIDS with a group of Mamelodi high school students at Mae Jemison on June 17.

The workshop focused on issues such as peer pressure at school, traditional parental roles, stigma, and myths.

The message from the workshop participants afterwards was loud and clear: "We want to meet with the GapBusters again!" Unfortunately, they have returned to Washington, DC — but the good news is that we have video-conferencing equipment in our auditorium, so look out for an announcement soon!

Budding Engineers Build Models

Yvonne Rakwena and Nthabiseng Modise, both Gr. 11 pupils at Gatang High School, assemble a Fischertechnik model

Braving cold, wet weather, and putting aside mid-year exam worries, nine Grade 10 and 11 students attended a hands-on Fischertechnik kit building program at Mae Jemison on Wednesday June 10.

Under the guidance of Fischertechnik's Sascha Lipka and volunteer Brandon Kesieman, a 2nd year engineering student at the University of Johannesburg, the pupils constructed cars, cranes, and other engineering models.

JULY IS MOON MONTH!

Also: the month of Astronomy

Program of Events:

July 1: 2 p.m.
DVD screening: *In the Shadow of the Moon*

July 8: 2.45 p.m.
SKA & MeerKAT — Presented by Kim de Boer, Manager: Human Capital Development, South African Square Kilometre Array Project (SKA)

July 15: 8 a.m.-3.30 p.m.
Hartebeesthoek Radio Astronomy Observatory field trip

July 22: 2.45 p.m.
Video conference with NASA astronaut

July 29: 2.45 p.m.
Sci-enza presentation: The Moon & the Universe

June statistics

- 108 books checked out.
- 355 visitors.

Year of Science 2009 Theme for July: Astronomy

From the YoS Website (http://www.yearofscience2009.org):

Why are we celebrating astronomy?

Astronomy, the oldest science in history, has played an important role in most, if not all, cultures over the ages. Thanks to advanced telescopes and space probes, astronomy continues to be a trailblazer, enhancing our knowledge by delivering breathtaking discoveries almost on a weekly basis.

Everyone should realize the impact of astronomy and other fundamental sciences on our daily lives, and understand how scientific knowledge can contribute to a more equitable and peaceful society.

The International Year of Astronomy 2009 (http://www.astronomy2009.org/) is a global effort initiated by the International Astronomical Union (IAU) and UNESCO to help the citizens of the world rediscover their place in the Universe through the day - and night-time sky, and thereby engage a personal sense of wonder and discovery. Watch the official trailer for the IYA2009.

History of the Apollo Moon Program

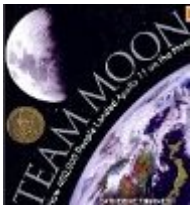
From the NASA Website (http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/apollo/index.html)

It all started on May 25, 1961, when President John F. Kennedy announced the goal of sending astronauts to the moon before the end of the decade. Coming just three weeks after Mercury astronaut Alan Shepard became the first American in space, Kennedy's bold challenge set the nation on a journey unlike any before in human history.

Eight years of hard work by thousands of Americans came to fruition on July 20, 1969, when Apollo 11 commander Neil Armstrong stepped out of the lunar module and took "one small step" in the Sea of Tranquility, calling it "a giant leap for mankind."

Six of the missions — Apollos 11, 12, 14, 15, 16 and 17 — went on to land on the moon, studying soil mechanics, meteoroids, seismic, heat flow, lunar ranging, magnetic fields and solar wind. Apollos 7 and 9 tested spacecraft in Earth orbit; Apollo 10 orbited the moon as the dress rehearsal for the first landing. An oxygen tank explosion forced Apollo 13 to scrub its landing, but the "can-do" problem solving of the crew and mission control turned the mission into a "successful failure."

In the Mae Jemison Library



America In Space: NASA's First Fifty Years by Steven Dick, Robert Jacobs, Constance Moore, and Bertram Ulrich. **M 629.40973 AME**

New Moon Rising: The Making of America's New Space Vision and the Remaking of NASA by Keith L. Cowing and Frank Sietzen Jr. **M 629.4540973 SIE**

Team Moon: How 400,000 People Landed Apollo 11 on the Moon by Catherine Thimmesh. **M 629.454 THI**

Encyclopedia Of Space And Astronomy by Joseph A. Angelo. **MR 520.3 ANG**