



## What a Great Year!

On January 26, 2009 we opened the doors of the Mae Jemison U.S. Science Reading Room to the schoolchildren of Mamelodi, celebrating the International Year of Astronomy with a viewing of a **partial eclipse of the sun** (photo, right).



## Sara joins the Mae J team



Welcome to **Sara Shumway**, our new Outreach Coordinator! Sara is in charge of organizing programs at Mae J, so we can look forward to an exciting year, jam-packed with activities, starting this month:

**January 13, 2.45 p.m.**

**Film: *Nature's Delicate Balance***

**January 14, 2.45 p.m.**

**Film: *Life After People***

**January 20, 2.45 p.m.**

**Launch of the Mae J theme for 2010: "Geography & Your Environment"**

**January 27, 1.30-5 p.m.**

**First Year Anniversary Day: Paleontology with special guests!**

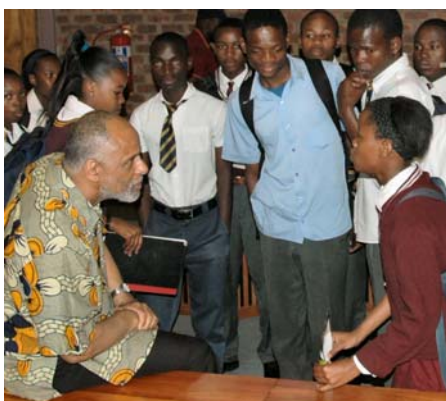
### Statistics:

**October 2009**

- 208 books checked out.
- 818 visitors.

**November 2009**

- 45 books checked out.
- 273 visitors.



We continued with this theme throughout the year. In March nearly 100 pupils were spell-bound by American astrophysicist Prof. **Charles McGruder's** (photo, left) explanation of the universe. In July we marked the 40th anniversary of the first moon landing with a live Web chat with NASA astronaut **Daniel Tani** (photo, below). We also had an

expedition to the Hartebeesthoek Radio Astronomy Observatory, and a presentation on the Square Kilometer Array and Karoo Array Telescope projects.

Thank you for your wonderful support — without your enthusiastic participation, the Mae Jemison U.S. Science Reading Room would not have been such a tremendous success.



# International Year of Biodiversity



Biodiversity is life  
Biodiversity is our life

From the official Web site:

<http://www.cbd.int/2010/about/>

You are an integral part of nature; your fate is tightly linked with biodiversity, the huge variety of other animals and plants, the places they live and their surrounding environments, all over the world.

You rely on this diversity of life to provide you with the food, fuel, medicine and other essentials you simply cannot live without. Yet this rich diversity is being lost at a greatly accelerated rate because of human activities. This impoverishes us all and weakens the ability of the living systems, on which we depend, to resist growing threats such as climate change.

The United Nations proclaimed 2010 to be the International Year of Biodiversity, and people all over the world are working to safeguard this irreplaceable natural wealth and reduce biodiversity loss. This is vital for current and future human wellbeing. We need to do more. Now is the time to act.

The International Year of Biodiversity is a unique opportunity to increase understanding of the vital role that biodiversity plays in sustaining life on Earth.

See also: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biodiversity>



Some of the biodiversity of a coral reef (source: Wikipedia)

## Start reading

- M 333.72 CON **Conserving the environment** / John Woodward and Jennifer Skancke, book editors.
- M 333.95 WIL **The diversity of life** / Edward O. Wilson.
- M 570 SNE **The diversity of life : from single cells to multicellular organisms** / Robert Snedden.
- M 576.8 BRI **The diversity of species** / Michael Bright.
- M 333.9516 ADA **The future of the wild : radical conservation for a crowded world** / Jonathan S. Adams.
- M 333.9516 SUS **Sustaining life : how human health depends on biodiversity** / edited by Eric Chivian and Aaron Bernstein ; foreword by Edward O. Wilson ; prologue by Kofi Annan.
- M 577.68 MOO **Wetlands** / Peter D. Moore ; illustrations by Richard Garratt.
- M 333.9511 BEA **Wild solutions : how biodiversity is money in the bank** / Andrew Beattie, Paul R. Ehrlich.