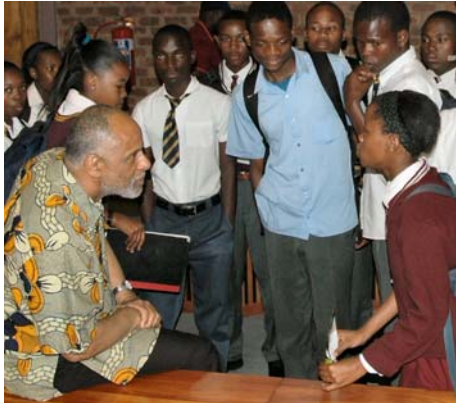




# Visiting U.S. Astrophysicist Explains Life, the Universe and Everything



Professor **Charles McGruder**, from Western Kentucky University, USA, gave a scintillating lecture on the nature of the universe to an enthralled audience of nearly 100 Mamelodi students on March 25.

Prof. McGruder was in South Africa to attend the Sci-Fest in Grahams-town.

The students learned that galaxies are the building blocks of the universe, and that to date over 300 extrasolar planets have been discovered by astronomers.

The possibility exists that there may indeed be life out there!

The audience was also treated to presentations on physics and chemistry by three interns from University of Pretoria's science center, SCI-ENZA.



## April Events

**April 1 at 1.30 p.m.**  
Roundtable discussion with 24 students and three teachers from Northfield Mount Hermon School in Massachusetts, U.S.A.

**April 8 at 2 p.m.**  
Presentation on study in the U.S.

**April 15 at 2.45 p.m.**  
Celebration of Earth Day: a program for teachers and students. We will also launch a special art competition.

**April 22**  
This is a public holiday, so the Reading Room will be **closed**.

**April 29 at 2.25 p.m.**  
Those wonderful interns from University of Pretoria's science center, SCI-ENZA, will bring dinosaurs to life!

## Over One Thousand Visitors in March!

The Mae Jemison U.S. Science Reading Room had **1070** visitors in March, and **118** books were checked out. That doesn't count all the books you used in the reading room, not to mention all the Web sites you visited to find out about batteries, electrochemistry, chlorine, and other topics.

We now have nearly 450 members. From now on, you will need your membership card to enter the Reading Room. If you are not a member, you can ask the security guard for a membership application form, which you'll need to take to your school to be stamped.

Programs in March included a lecture by a U.S. professor (*see above*) and an ExperiLab rocketry workshop (*see photo, right*).



# Year of Science 2009

## Theme for April: Energy Resources

YEAR of SCIENCE 2009  
Explore. Empower. Engage...

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

### Why are we celebrating Energy Resources?

Energy - the way we explore for it, the way we produce it, and the way we use it - has created opportunities and challenges for thousands of years. An exploration of energy integrates physics, chemistry, earth science, biology, and the social sciences as well. In a year of Science, each focus area has a connection to energy and energy has a connection to each focus area.

Consider your day and the energy you use from the moment you awake in the morning until you switch off the light at night. We use energy to cook our food, to generate electricity for our lights and for the electrical appliance that make our lives easier. We use energy to move our cars, planes, boats, and products from place to place - bringing food to our tables, bringing us to our jobs, and allowing international commerce to happen in little or no time.

### EARTH DAY, APRIL 22

Earth Day, April 22, is the annual U.S. celebration of the environment and a time for Americans to assess the work still needed to protect the natural gifts of our planet.



Earth Day celebrates its 39th anniversary in 2009. What began in 1970 as a protest movement has evolved into a global celebration of the environment and commitment to its protection. The history of Earth Day mirrors the growth of environmental awareness over the last three decades, and the legacy of Earth Day is the certain knowledge that the environment is a universal concern.

See:

<http://www.america.gov/st/washfile-english/2007/April/20070420114325jtnworbo.9966699.html>

See also:

<http://www.earthday.gov/>

<http://www.america.gov/global/environ.html>



### DVDs & books on energy resources in the Reading Room

**E<sup>2</sup>. Energy 2007.** DVD: 1800 min.

Global in scope and comprising six 30-minute chapters filmed in HD, "e2: Energy" features people, places and innovations that suggest that a more environmentally benign future is possible and within reach.

**Saved by the Sun.** 2005. DVD: 55 min.

NOVA presents the latest thinking from solar enthusiasts and skeptics as it investigates cutting-edge research developments in collecting solar energy.

M 333.794 ALT

**Alternative energy sources** / Darrin Gunkel, book editor. Greenhaven Press, c2006.

M 333.79023 CAR

**Careers in focus. Energy.** Ferguson, c2006.

