



May Events

(All programs start at 2.45 p.m.)

May 6: Be an advocate against abuse & trafficking
Girls-only program with Fulbright Professor Susan Kreston

May 13: Study in the U.S.
This may not just be a distant dream! Find out about Student Achievers & other programs.

May 20: Interesting careers in science
Bring your questions!

May 27: Principles of flight

Another presentation by our friends from the University of Pretoria's science center, Sci-enza.



The Egyptian Free-tail bat, which can be found in Mamelodi

American Students Come to Mamelodi

For some, school break is incomplete without a visit to the Mae Jemison Science Reading Room — and on April 8 a few of our dedicated members were rewarded with an opportunity to interact with 23 students and three teachers from **Northfield Mount Herman**, a high school in Massachusetts, USA.



University of Pretoria Mamelodi Campus Director Mr. Edwin Smith welcomed the guests, and U.S. Embassy staff gave an overview of the Reading Room.

And then the fun began: a question and answer session between the Mamelodi and American students, culminating in some high-energy dance moves.

We hope to meet again with Northfield Mount Herman — virtually!



Passionate about Bats!

Rudi Horak loves bats, and the 60 students who attended her talk at the Mae Jemison Reading Room on April 15 soon found out why.

These strange-looking mammals have been protected by law in South Africa since 2003, not the least because they are very useful creatures. For example, a single bat can consume between 500 and 1,000 mosquitoes in a single hour [source: "Bats". *Ecologist* (July 2003, Vol. 33, Issue 6, p. 42-43)].

Rudi Horak is the Manager and Curator of the Science Centre, as well as the coordinator of the Amulwane Bat Project. Her talk was part of the Earth Day celebrations at the Reading Room, along with the launch of an Earth Day poster competition.



Year of Science 2009 Theme for May: Sustainability and the Environment

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

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

Sustainability represents a way of thinking, living, and acting to ensure that our choices do not impact future generations' ability to enjoy a high quality of life. This means being good stewards of the earth, good citizens in local and world communities, and sharing resources with human and natural populations.

Celebrating sustainability means celebrating the ways individuals and communities have successfully considered sustainability to make better decisions. Let's honor the scientists, the city planners, the students, and citizens who have found innovative ways to promote sustainability.

Read about this topic in the Reading Room

M 333.79 EVA

Evans, Robert L. (2007) **Fueling our future : an introduction to sustainable energy.**



M 333.72 SIV

Sivertsen, Linda (2008). **Generation green : the ultimate teen guide to living an eco-friendly life.**



M 333.9516 SUS

Chivian, Eric; Bernstein, Aaron, editors (2008). **Sustaining life : how human health depends on biodiversity.**



School Break, but Still Busy

Our number of visitors dropped in April — but despite the two weeks of school holidays, 667 students signed in.

Our circulation figures increased, with 196 books checked out in April, compared to 118 in March.

New books in the library include:

- ◆ *Magill's Medical Guide*
- ◆ *Planets, stars, and galaxies : a visual encyclopedia of our universe*
- ◆ *Deadly invaders : virus outbreaks around the world, from Marburg fever to avian flu*
- ◆ *Oceans: an illustrated reference*

