



## THE HOUSE IS OPEN!

Cheers and music resonated at the Mae Jemison U.S. Science Reading Room on May 7th as more than 300 library members, their parents and guardians, U.S. Government and University of Pretoria visitors and key science education contacts gathered to celebrate the second anniversary of the reading room with an Open House.

The Open House, the reading room's first, featured student-led tours of the facility, testimonies of former Mae Jemison members, a picnic lunch, and a "Mamelodi's Got Talent" entertainment competition emceed by DJs of Mams FM, a community radio station.



The guests of honor at the event, Ambassador Donald H Gips and Liz Berry Gips, Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs Judith McHale, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public Diplomacy Bruce Wharton, and Prof. Sibusiso Vil-Nkomo, Executive Director the University of Pretoria Mamelodi Campus and Community Engagement, offered brief remarks and had the

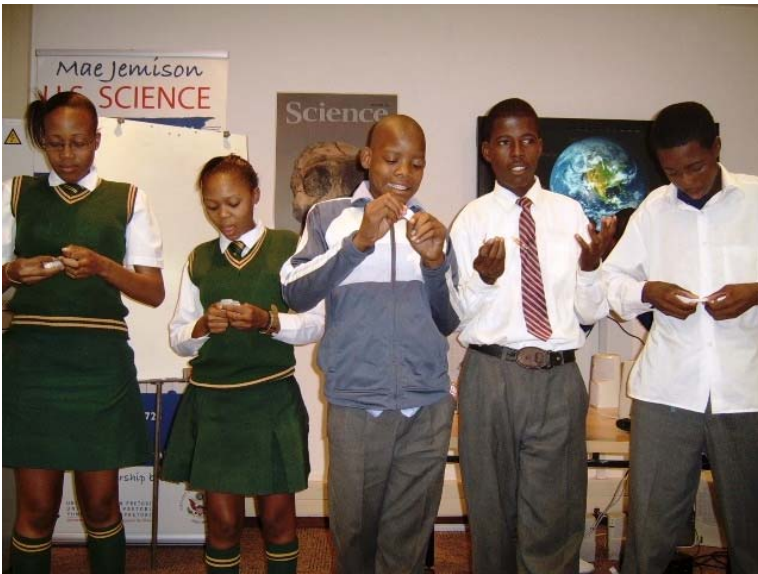
opportunity to interact with the Mae Jemison Reading Room students and their parents.

"Education can be fun," said Under Secretary McHale, commending students on their ability to combine education with a sense of enjoyment.

Dr. Mae Jemison, the former astronaut after whom the reading room is named, told the students in a special pre-recorded message that the Reading Room "provides an excellent venue" for promoting, globally, the value of building knowledge of the impact of science, mathematics and technology on society.



## Celebrating Earth Day



A team of interns from Sci-Enza, a science learning center under the direction of Rudi Horak of the University of Pretoria, visited Mae Jemison U.S. Science Reading Room on April 22 for a series of hands-on Earth Day activities. Approximately 60 students learned about the dangers of pollution and discussed ways they could increase environmental awareness in their homes and communities.

## Learning About Human Trafficking

On April 25, 2011 Major Margaret Stafford of the Salvation Army visited the Mae Jemison Reading Room and discussed the realities of human trafficking in South Africa with an audience of 20 female high school students.

Major Stafford, who runs the Beth Shan shelter for abused women, gave an overview of human trafficking in South Africa and fielded student questions and concerns.

With 80% of victims of trafficking children and the majority of those children female, the threat is real. Using statistics and stories from her experience, Major Stafford emphasized the vulnerability of children and women in the face of human trafficking.

## May Events

*All programs start at 3 p.m. and are free!*

### Wednesday May 4

#### Hip Hop in America

A cultural and historical look at the hip hop art form by Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Max Cuddy

### Monday, May 16

#### The World Food Supply

Learn more about how Dr. Gebisa Ejeta won the 2009 World Food Prize for his research to develop drought- and pest-tolerant sorghum, a stable crop in sub-Saharan Africa

### Wednesday, May 18

*Closed for local elections*

### Thursday, May 19

#### Astrophysicist Visits Mae J

Astrophysicist, educator, and inventor Dr. Hakeem M. Oluseyi, visiting South Africa for SciFest, will tell the stories of African astronomers and take a look at the broader social and political contexts that affected their research

### Wednesday, May 25

#### Chemistry at Work Lecture Series:

#### Chemistry in Medicine

A talk about how chemistry plays a part in the professional life of a doctor by Dr. Andrew Trego of the U.S. Embassy

## April Statistics

136 books checked out

1336 visitors

