



Moreeletsi proudly showing vice-chancellor Dr Robert Bong her group's project.

Skills for varsity

WHILE most other subjects in university may require students to memorise formulas, understand history and work out calculations, first-year students at UCSI University have a subject dedicated to helping them adjust and integrate into life at a higher learning institution.

Students taking the subject, aptly called University Life, are encouraged to work on community projects while incorporating creativity in their coursework.

The university's multi-purpose hall was abuzz with activity recently as 234 students – the subject's first batch – showcased their projects with videos, pictures and colourful posters.

The projects ranged from visits to charity homes, environmental rallies, crime-solving games and awareness campaigns.

Moreeletsi Mmolotsi of Botswana, part of the group called the Mighty Ones, said that they enjoyed going to the Heritage Home, Petaling Jaya as part of their project.

"The people in the home did not usually receive foreign visitors, so there was a very frank cultural exchange which I found really

fulfilling," she said.

Another group called One Youth, One Nation, organised a trip to SMK (T) Sungai Manggis in Banting, Selangor over three days, where they cleaned up the school grounds in a *gotong-royong* and spruced up its walls with murals. The group for the trip eventually grew to include other university students who were not part of the project, and 12 secondary school students from SMK Taman Sri Muda.

As can be guessed from the name, the Green Team launched an environmental campaign to get as many people to use reusable bags instead of plastic bags.

The subject also teaches vital skills such as identifying learning styles, learning effective study techniques, note taking, presentation, listening and memory skills, as well as methods to prepare for examinations.

Students are required to participate in a community-based project as part of their final assessment, and present it during the University Life showcase. Marks are awarded based on creativity, teamwork and how effectively knowledge and skills are applied to real situations.