

Career corner and beading workshop

INITIATIVES

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Retreat Library

It often happens that students enrol for a course without realising what it entails, with the result that they drop out after a few months when they find out it is not what they wanted to do. To address this problem, the University of Cape Town (UCT) has held displays at various libraries to present the necessary information.

Teachers and principals of the surrounding schools were invited to a permanent display of information at Retreat Library in February 2004 and a presentation by the deputy registrar and other staff in the admissions office of UCT.

The display contains information that provides guidance to learners on choosing the right course, and applications for bursaries, courses, work shadowing and internships.

Other useful information is guidance to write a curriculum vitae, how to partake in informal interviews and examples of cover letters. Books on career choice, the best companies to work for, careers in scarce skills, prospectuses of the different faculties of the university and guidelines for admission are provided as reference material for learners. The admissions staff of UCT will keep the information provided up to date. The library is free to add information on other tertiary study institutions as well. The books are displayed in a room that leads off the main library, next to the Small Business Corner.

UCT also provided two computers and the software enables students to conduct online career searches. The computers are in the same section as the display.

Pupils of previously-disadvantaged areas find it difficult to

reach the university's offices where counselling is available, hence the decision to visit Retreat Library monthly to give guidance to learners. Schools will be informed of the dates of these visits so that learners are able to make use of the opportunity.

The admissions staff of UCT plan to eventually spread this service to libraries in other previously-disadvantaged areas as well.

Kommetjie Library

Kommetjie Library was jam packed with 28 enthusiastic attendees at a beading workshop in March 2005. They were guided by Maryna Stotesbury and her daughter, Tania, to create two items:



▷ Teachers from Muizenberg and Steenberg High Schools studying the flip files. Behind them the reference material on career guidance to learners can be seen

▽ Attendees of the presentation familiarising themselves with the material of the permanent display which includes two computers and software to enable students to conduct online career searches



△ Enthusiastic attendees at the beading workshop at Kommetjie Library

a hedgehog fridge magnet and crocodile key ring ornament. Materials were obtained through municipal funding, with the result that the unemployed could benefit from the workshop as well.

The librarian, Jane Grieve, displayed posters at Ocean View and Fish Hoek Libraries advertising the event.

Maryna Stotesbury, an experienced craft teacher, has been giving classes for more than twenty years. She has been involved in community work at Masiphumelele, gives regular classes at Kommetjie and is involved at the Fish Hoek Craft Club as well.

A group of ladies from Ocean View Craft Club also attended the class. They were accompanied by the project leader (Nally Beukes) and leader of the Ocean View Craft Club (Gertie Conradie) and aim to teach wives of local fishermen and others new hobbies which could generate an income as well. This project is sponsored by businesses of Fish Hoek.



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