

# Courtenay-Latimer Hall Report 2019



## Values of the DSA

Encourage potential and cultivate academic success and excellence: Courtenay-Latimer Hall prides themselves in being one of the top academic halls on campus. Unfortunately, there was a drop in academic performance rankings, to 7<sup>th</sup> in the 2019 June examinations. Students had at least one academic interview with their warden after the June examinations. A number of initiatives were organised by the academic representatives within the hall this year to help motivate and support our students, especially the first year students. These included:

- A textbook sale at the beginning of the year to improve access to affordable academic textbooks for the first year students in particular;
- A mentor-mentee programme where the second and third year students took on the roles of mentors and the first year students adopted the mentee role;
- Top performing students were provided with chocolates at the start of the year, as well as the start of the second semester;
- Academic talks and support evenings, which were facilitated by the Counselling Centre, were organised and students, especially first years, were encouraged to attend.

Highlights of our academic performance this year were as follows:

- Ms Natasha Kapepula was awarded the Investec award for Student Leadership;
- Ms Kudzaishe Chingono was awarded the Investec award for General Excellence;
- Ms Josie Makkink and Ms Laura-Jean Runchman were awarded the Investec awards for Academic Excellence in Humanities;
- Ms Ponts'o Khalane, a Financial Management Honours student, received the Allan Gray Achievement Award.

Develop ethical leaders and responsible citizens: One of our Oriel House Sub-Wardens, Ms Kudzaishe Chingono, attended the Bali Asia International Model United Nations Conference in March this year. This conference is held in Bali for individuals between the ages of 18-25 years

old and allows young individuals from around the world to come together to discuss and present solutions to problems facing the world today.

The hall encouraged various initiatives throughout the year to enable students to acquire skills outside of their academics, these included:

- A successful seminar on how to use water wisely which was especially important in the light of the current water crisis. Ongoing awareness was raised and regular updates given on the water crisis and the University's "Restricted Water Supply Plan";
- An Earth Hour awareness evening took place where our students had a picnic in the Botanical Gardens and played indigenous games;
- Beit House introduced a system of sharing essential toiletries where boxes were placed in bathrooms and students could donate toiletries to those who needed it;
- Oriel House held a water drive in partnership with Aqua Pure to provide a delivery service to students, as well as delivering a message in a balloon to students for a small fee, to raise funds for the community engagement and environmental initiatives in the residence.

Water conservation remained the central theme for all environmentally-led activities during the course of the year. This ranged from messages on notice boards, on the residence and hall Facebook pages as well as discussions in meeting.

Promote personal growth and resilience: Students are encouraged to participate in as many events as possible, provided it does not interfere with their academics. Our community engagement partnership with Boy-Boy Mginywa Pre-School is still going strong and the children were invited to visit our hall during fourth term. The children participated in various fun activities with the students and snacks were plentiful. Our students were able to double book a packed meal to ensure that each child got to enjoy lunch before leaving to go home.

Cultivating sporting participation and excellence: Our sports reps were very enthusiastic this year but participation remained low, relative to previous years. The sports representatives and house committees often tried to find new ideas to encourage participation and those who did participate, thoroughly enjoyed the events. The Oriel House sports representative hosted weekly Zumba classes in the common room and a "one minute workout challenge" that got students more involved. The Charlotte Maxeke House Sports Representative organised a sports day with Graham House which was well attended and enjoyed by all. The creation of a sustainable culture of regular physical exercise remains an ongoing challenge in our hall.

Promote a wellness approach to life: This year started off with leadership training where the hall took the students on a boat cruise up the river in Port Alfred. This was thoroughly enjoyed by all and a stopover at the big pineapple was another highlight for them. The training during that weekend covered various aspects of the role of Sub-Warden which are not covered by the University and in some cases only pertaining to our hall. The students enjoyed the training as there were many fun activities included. They got to know each other better by being paired up into groups and this laid a good foundation for working together as a hall through the year.

Orientation week created friendships amongst many of the first year students and the demands on the House Committee during that week fostered strong bonds between the members. The Wardens and House Committee members met in the evenings during Orientation Week to get

general feedback and discuss the day's training. The first year students settled in quickly and this was partly due to the fact that the house committee members were pillars of strength during this time.

Various movie nights, house braais and game nights were organised throughout the year which provided the students with opportunities to socialise with students from other residences on campus.

The hall events during the year included Brunches, formal dinners and the annual garden party. We have found the attendance of our formal dinners dwindling as well.



*Leadership Training Weekend – The big pineapple*



*Boat cruise up the Kowie River*



*Oriel House Committee*



*Ms Kudzaishe Chingono – Attending the conference in Bali*





*International Day Parade*



*Oriel House first year students*



*Beit House first year students*



*Ms Natasha Kapepula – Investec Rhodes Top 100*



*Ms Kudzaishe Chingono – Investec Rhodes Top 100*



*Movie Night at Oriel House*





*Welcome Dinner pre-drinks*



*Welcome Dinner*



*Students enjoying the Garden Party*



*The Graeme College Steel Band performing at our Garden Party*



*Hall Senior Student address at our Leavers Dinner*



*Thank you to our Catering Staff at our Leavers Dinner – Chocolates presented by two of our Hall Fellows, Mr David Fryer & Prof Brett Pletschke*



*Students arriving at our Leavers Dinner*



*Leavers Dinner*



*Thank you to our Housekeeping Staff at our Leavers Dinner – Chocolates presented by our Hall Fellow, Mr David Fryer*



*Our Beit House & Hall Warden, Mrs Engela Tyson, with the Beit House Sub-Wardens*