

DROSTDY HALL REPORT 2019

Reporting on:

VALUES OF THE DSA:

ENCOURAGE POTENTIAL AND CULTIVATE ACADEMIC SUCCESS AND EXCELLENCE

	November Exams 2018 – position/ranking	June Exams 2019 – position/ranking
Hall	3rd	9th
Allan Gray House	9th	28th
Graham House	25th	46th
Prince Alfred House	22nd	12th

Unfortunately Drostdy Hall fell to 9th place for the June exams. Allan Gray and Graham also moved down considerably in the rankings. However, Prince Alfred House improved by moving from 22nd to 12th position.

The Drostdy June exam results were a serious concern and it was noted at the third term hall committee meeting that we need to change the Hall/Residences culture. The Hall Warden sent letters to all students, congratulating those who did well, and offering advice to those whose results indicated a need for support, from the June exams.

Promoting Academic Excellence

In light of the concerning June exam results, Graham House launched their internal mentorship programme for the first years, at the end of the 3rd Term. The students were grouped according to their programmes and a senior student was assigned to assist them. The social platform of the residence was also used for encouragement and to keep academics as the agenda in the residence.

Recognising Academic Excellence

At the Leavers Dinner the top first year from the June exams received an award, as well as the top second and third year from the November 2018 and June 2019 exams combined. Both Allan Gray House and Prince Alfred House held a top achiever's breakfast for their res.

Three Celeste Students presented their papers at the Rhodes University Postgraduate Conference that was held on the 22 & 23 August 2019.

DEVELOP ETHICAL LEADERS AND RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS

Community Engagement

Allan Gray, Prince Alfred & Celeste House took part in the Give 5 challenge.

On the 24th September, Allan Gray and Prince Alfred House arranged a trip to the museum for the children of Noncedo Pre-School.

On the 12th October we as a Hall embarked on completing our final goal for Noncedo Pre-School, which was a talent show for the children, and the painting of the school. We had approximately 40 students who volunteered. Some of the students double booked their lunch in order to donate a packed lunch to the children and the teachers. The students and the children had loads of fun.

Celeste House fundraised money to purchase items requested by Noncedo. There were also items donated by house members.

Allan Gray and Prince Alfred combined were finalists for the 2019 RUC Awards, in the Residence/Hall of the Year category. Unfortunately we did not win, but it was a huge honour to be a finalist.

Leadership

At a fourth term hall committee meeting it was noted that there is a lot of apathy, nobody wants to run for leadership positions, and when somebody gets a leadership position nobody wants to work with them, and this seems to be a trend across Campus, and it is sometimes difficult to get good leaders.

Ideas Suggested:

- Appoint instead of vote. Each Res votes which student/s are to be on the appointments committee.
 - We cannot take away this vote from students, otherwise both Sub-Wardens and Leadership students will be appointed. At least students can vote for their House Comm and Head Student.
- Leadership reflection halfway through the year.
- Change the eligibility.
 - If we make the eligibility more stringent, we will not find anyone to run.
- Candidates to submit a motivation, and short-listing is to be held before voting.
- We need to find out why students do not come forward, why students are discouraged?
- Incentives for leadership positions.
 - The current incentive is getting a good reference letter.
- Reduce number of House Comm Members and combine portfolios so these leadership students come out with more experience and skills.
 - Some portfolios you cannot combine, as it is just too much work.
 - Some portfolios are already combined.
- We need to encourage the few who would make good leaders.
- Put out a motivation that they do not have to pack up, and possibly have a cash incentive. Reduce the numbers of house comm and make it highly competitive, and then those leadership students will work hard and make a difference.

This all needs to be addressed at Board of Residences, and a Sub-Committee needs to be formed, as this is a Campus problem.

At the beginning of second semester, we had a number of house comm resignations.

This year we luckily had a good number of candidates who ran for the Hall Senior Student and SRC Hall Rep positions, unlike previous years.

Water Crisis

Allan Gray, Prince Alfred and Graham House have been fairly good this year at following the water crisis procedures, especially compared to other Halls. This was ensured by closing the taps to the toilet cisterns and removing the tap heads to make sure students could not open them again.

Students have questions and concerns relating to the Municipality and Rhodes about why Festival is still happening and why the University accommodated guests during a water crisis. It was suggested that the University send out some form of communication explaining everything to answer the many questions students have.

VALUE AND CELEBRATE DIVERSITY

The usual termly residence functions were held. Celeste had a combined braai with Oakdene in the third term. At the Leavers Dinner, there was a diverse range of performances by the Drostdy students, including a cultural dance. Three cultural awards were presented at the Leavers Dinner.

PROMOTE PERSONAL GROWTH AND RESILIENCE

Building on the information from the consent talk held in the second term, the Equity and Institutional Culture Office collaborated with the Fine Arts Department to host design workshops in each hall for consent themed pillowcases.

The Drostdy Hall workshop was held on the 4th August. The attendance was higher than most other halls and we had some extremely creative designs. The Transformation Reps were helpful in recruiting the students to participate and getting their creativity flowing.

On the 3rd of September, Allan Gray and Prince Alfred House held a debrief session in their Res after Uyinene's vigil.

On the 20th September there was a talk held informing students about the updated Sexual Offences Policy by Dr Mkhize. The talk was informative and relevant to the students. This also provided students opportunities to ask Dr Mkhize questions on the policy. However, it was noted that many of the students did not understand the various definitions. Booklets were distributed to the students in the week following the talk.

Graham House also hosted their own talk to do with mental health and gender-based violence. Former Graham Sub-Warden and former chairperson of Nkoli-Fassie, Sheldon Dolf, facilitated the discussion.

CULTIVATING SPORTING PARTICIPATION AND EXCELLENCE

Our three undergrad residences did fairly well in the inter-res sports competition this year. In the female competition, Allan Gray came 3rd, and Prince Alfred came 6th. In the male competition, Graham House came 7th. It was discovered in the 4th term that other residences had not been following some of the inter-res rules during the year, which means they had an unfair advantage.

Graham House felt that their involvement in inter-res sports activities did not truly reflect how Graham House valued sports, such as pool, table tennis and gaming, which a good number of students play in-House against and with each other.

At the Leavers Dinner we awarded two sports awards, the Drostdy Hall Sportsperson of the Year, Internal & External Award.

PROMOTE A WELLNESS APPROACH TO LIFE

Sports

The Graham House soccer team participated in several games against other residences. Graham House continues to align itself with the academic agenda of the residence by incorporating wellness through sports and interaction.

Social

The annual Leavers Dinner was held, as well as termly residence functions. At the Leavers Dinner, the Dean of Students Leadership Award was presented.

Excellence

- An Allan Gray House student received an ORU Bursary Award.
- An Allan Gray House student performed at the National Arts Festival in a production called SALT. SALT won the award for best director, and overall best play.



Consent Pillow Case Design Workshop



PA House Breakfast for Top Academic Achievers.



Graham House Soccer Team.



Volunteering at Noncedo Pre-School.



Noncedo Pre-School visit to the museum.



Noncedo Pre-School Talent Show.



Leavers Dinner Performances.



Leavers Dinner





Prince Alfred House



Graham House



Allan Gray at Inter-Res Tennis.



Allan Gray & Prince Alfred at the RUCE Awards.



RUCE Awards



Drostdy Awards.



Drostdy Hall Committee 2019.