

# JAN SMUTS HALL



## ANNUAL REPORT

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## INTRODUCTION

As Jan Smuts Hall, we believe that learning is a partnership between students and the University and therefore should be safeguarded to ensure that students learn without any disturbances as well as protecting the rights of each individual.

Therefore, the students and staff of Jan Smuts Hall, inspired by the spirit of *ubuntu-botho*, acknowledge the challenges facing a diverse community of people with varying backgrounds, cultures and histories. We strive to create a residential environment based on the principles and values of dignity, equality and freedom. We recognise self-discipline, humility, loyalty, courtesy, self-respect and respect for others as essential for harmonious communal living. The spirit of *ubuntu-botho* shall at all times inform the management of Jan Smuts Hall and its constituent Houses.

In this report, I will highlight the activities and programmes of the Hall since the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester aligned to the Values of the Division of Student Affairs (DSA):

## VALUES OF THE DSA

- Encourage potential and cultivate academic success and excellence
- Develop ethical leaders and responsible citizens
- Value and celebrate diversity
- Promote personal growth and resilience
- Cultivating sporting participation and excellence
- Promote a wellness approach to life



2019 Jan Smuts Hall Committee members







## Encourage potential and cultivate academic success and excellence

The academic representatives of all four residences hosted a Hall Academic talk. The purpose of the Talk was to assist the students in the Hall for effective planning and studying for the upcoming exams. This was held on Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> October 2019 in the Jan Smuts Dining Hall. We had a guest speaker, Ms Chipo Simbi a lecturer in the Accounting Department. Her engagement with the students were thought provoking, vibrant and inspiring. We also had the Warden of Adamson House, the Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy who addressed the students on the acronym **SUCCESS**:

**S:** Shine

**U:** Understand

**C:** commit

**C:** Courage

**E:** excellence

**S:** sort

**S:** sustain

The main message is: In order to **shine** in our academic space, we need to **understand** that we need to be **committed** to the academic endeavour. We need to be **courageous** as **excellence** is an elusive element. Therefore it is important that our academic lives are **sorted** in order to **sustain** ourselves academically. With these powerful words from the Warden, we hope to continue to cultivate academic success and excellence.

The talks was ended with a quiz and prizes facilitated by the academic representatives. They left the talk each with a sweet treat as a token of good wishes for the upcoming exams. As the Hall warden, I gifted each House a cake as an “All the best with exams”, while encouraging them to study hard, to be focussed and not to give up!



GUEST SPEAKER , MS. C. SIMBI



November 2019 Examination treats

## Develop ethical leaders and responsible citizens

### Promoting environmental sustainable practices

With the ongoing water scarcity in Grahamstown, our student leaders, especially our environmental representatives, played an important role in promoting environmental sustainable practices. Apart for promoting recycle, and energy saving methods, there was ongoing awareness raising on water savings in our Hall. There was great impression put on awareness of water scarcity in Makhanda/Grahamstown and great efforts were made so that students would understand the serious impact of not adhering to the daily rationing of 50L a day. The students in the Hall were constantly made aware of how to systematically engage on a day-to-day basis. The laundry rooms were managed effectively by each residence to save water. On days when there was no water, students would go outside and collect water from the 5000L JoJo tanks.

#### LAUNDRY (MACHINE/DRYER) Week .....

TIME	MON (Open)	TUES (Close)	WED (Open)	THUR (Close)	FRI (Open)	SAT (Open)	SUN (Close)
07:30 – 08:25							
08:30 – 09:55							
10:00 – 10:55							
11:00- 11:55							
12:00 – 12:55							
13:00 – 13:55							
14:00 – 14:55							
15:00 – 15:55							
16:00 – 16:55							
17:00 – 17:55							
18:00 – 18:55							
19:00 – 19:55							
20:00 – 20:55							
C	L	O	S	E	S	@	9PM

Figure 1 EXAMPLE OF WASHING AND DRYER SLOTS

## Give 5 Hall fundraising

Jan Smuts Hall participated in the Give 5 Week, and successfully raised money in the region of R1000 by selling braai meat, boerewors rolls, popcorn, muffins, etc. We aim to do even better with better planning.





## Jan Smuts Hall Annual Toiletry Drive

In September this year, we had our second annual toiletry fundraiser event in the RU drama theatre. It was a huge success. The Hall raised R2, 844-50 and collected toiletry donations estimated in the region of R2000, 00.



## Hall Transformation activities

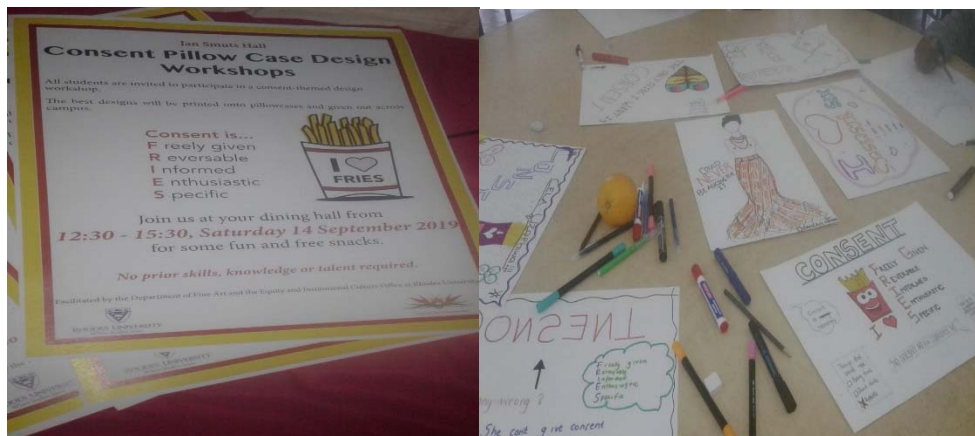
The Consent Talk between New House and Robert Sobukwe was successfully held in the Jan Smuts Dining Hall. On the 8<sup>th</sup> of October, Dr Mkhize the Anti- Harassment Manager held a talk in Jan Smuts dining hall on raising awareness on the Rhodes University sexual offences policy. We learnt a lot on this night and we'd like to thank for giving such an insightful talk.

The Consent Pillowcase Workshop took place on the 14<sup>th</sup> of September in the Dining Hall, which was facilitated by the Office of Equity & Institutional Culture. The purpose of the workshop was for students in the Hall to design pillowcases on white sheets of paper so that they may pick the best design that will be customized for everyone. This was a good attendance for this workshop, there was great interest showed by students in the Hall. Some of the designs



Our students also participated in the Silent Protest taping demonstration during Gender Week but did not take any images in respect for people's privacy. Some of our students also attended the Nkoli Fassie Drag Show as part of Pride Week.

The Hall successfully participated in the debate competition which was organised by the office of Equity & Institutional Culture. On Saturday, 5 October 2019, Jan Smuts Hall were one of the finalist of the completion, but was not the overall winner. We Hall successfully completed the renaming of Jan Smuts Hall project in term 3. The proposal for the renaming of Jan Smuts hall to Solomon Mahlangu hall was submitted to the Board of residences and the Naming Committee and to Senate for final approval by the RU Council.



### CONSENT PILLOW CASE WORKSHOP

The Hall has been so proud of the achievements of many of its members in not only hall level events, but across the campus, such as the RSC and the Investec Top 100.

At a ceremony hosted by INVESTED, two members of the Hall were elected by the student body to serve on the SRC in 2020. There were 6 members of the Hall who were recognised for their leadership and contributions in various fields of student engagements. This ranged from recognition in media, arts and culture, community engagement and student leadership.



### 2019 INVESTEC TOP 100 RECIPIENTS OF THE HALL

### HALL LEAVERS' DINNERS

Due to the size of the Hall, we have two leavers' dinners, where residences pair up for the event. We use leavers' dinners as a platform for bid farewell to our leavers and to give thanks to our student leaders for their hard work and dedication in making residences a conducive environment for living and learning. At the formal dinners, we also recognise students who achieved in the category of academics, sports, leadership, and so forth. These dinners are a hit for our Hall and the attendees enjoy themselves thoroughly. The planning are done by the respective paired up houses. In the same breath, we found a lower attendance over the years of these events and we made a decision as the hall Committee, to have only one dinner going forward, to accommodate those who really want to attend the events.















## Promote personal growth and resilience

### Community Engagement

The Hall values community engagement as part of our identity. Our community engagement representatives established a positive working relationship with our community partner Nokwandle. The attendance of the students in the Hall impressive. The individual Houses also placed community engagement at the forefront of their residence activities. Encouragingly, the work that is done by the Hall is providing us with fresh and new evidence of a society that is actively confronting daily challenges. In this era when our students are going to become future leaders we have instilled a mind-set of understanding the value of collective impact and innovation. We have seen the growing demand for revitalizing the participatory process.



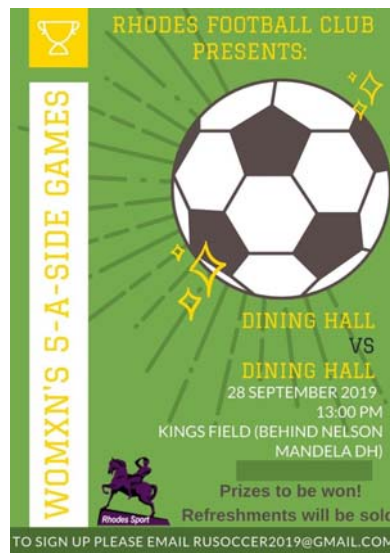
Events organized by the hall





## Cultivating sporting participation and excellence

Very few inter residence sports took place this semester due to Intervarsity and the 4<sup>th</sup> term, being the examination term. Many of the inter res sports events were also cancelled, however, Jan Smuts Hall sports representatives initiated an Inter-Hall netball day at the Courts, as well as Inter-hall football game, which was approved by Sports Administration. It was a day full of fun and new friendships forged. Overall, this semester has been challenging.



## Promote a wellness approach to life

As a hall, we continue to promote events/activities, which speaks to students overall wellness. We constantly promote responsible use of alcohol through our events as well as awareness raising on the dangers of substances.

## CONCLUSION

I am proud of the Hall and their significant achievements in 2019. The student leadership played a key role in creating an environment conducive for living and learning. I wish to thank them, the Wardens of the Hall, our Hall Administrator, the housekeeping staff and catering staff for their hard work in fulfilling our Hall's values of academic excellence, Ubuntu, hall pride, promoting environmental sustainable practices and community engagement.







