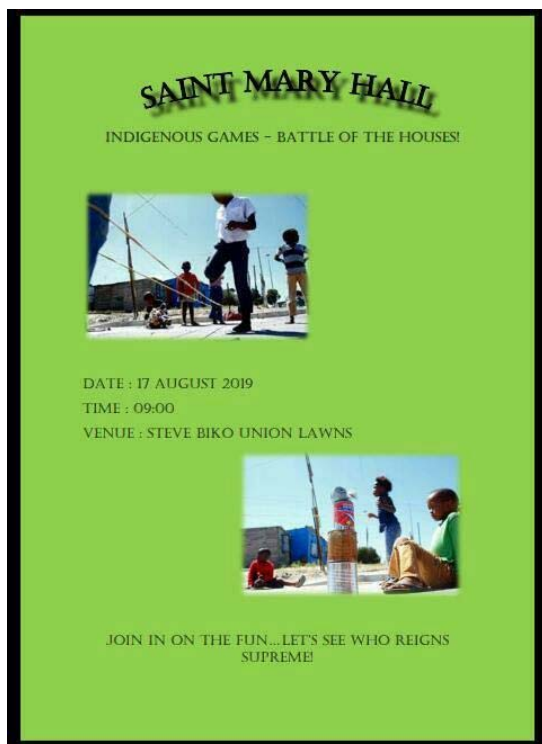




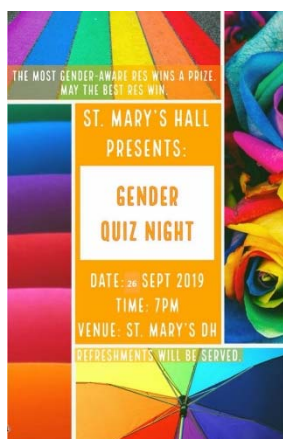
St Mary Hall

Semester 2: 2019

St Mary Hall had some lovely events this year. Transformation needs to take place in so many different ways and at St Mary Hall we are trying to do so through fun, laughter, understanding, games and even a quiz.



John Kotze House



As my students returned from their mid-year break, I could feel that they had a sense of belonging. They sent messages to say they are back and looking forward to the remainder of the year; this from students who were surprised when I sent them messages to wish them safe travels as they left. Our first years had more sense of ownership of their space as they returned, the res felt more like a home with a united community living together in it.

There is a lot of work still to be done, in establishing traditions and cultures that enable more harmonious community living. There is still a lot of work to be done, also, in the alignment of my wardening approach with the historical approach. However, as the year progressed, I felt that my ladies are starting to trust my consistent presence, my genuine interest in their

lives and my stability.

All in all, a lovely and productive year of change and settling. I am happy to be at John Kotze and look forward to more years, and more settling.

Sub wardens

The second semester came with more confidence in the sub-wardening team. We established informal training sessions, twice a month, where we would discuss events that have happened in the past 2 weeks, how the sub-wardening team handled them, and how we can better handle them in future. This brought about a more uniformed response to issues, from sub warden to sub warden, and from case to case. This is an exercise that I would like to spread into the Hall in 2020, as it not only boosts the confidence of the sub wardens greatly, but also boosts the confidence of the wardens in their sub-warden team.

We had a successful R&S process for the sub-warden team of 2020, with two of the current sub-wardens, Nwabisa and Ongezwa, being successful for 2020, and a new sub-warden, Samkelisiwe, the 2019 Treasurer, joining the team. I look forward to the team growing from strength to strength and will enjoy watching Nwabisa and Ongezwa guide and empower Samke in her new role.

For the year of 2020, I have reintroduced the delegation of specific central rooms, per floor, as sub-wardens' rooms, to allow sub-wardens to be in a more centralized location, in order to monitor their corridors more effectively. The sub-wardens were hesitant in embracing the idea at first, but as I provided them more information on the benefits and the positive impact on their ability to do their job optimally, I have secured 100% buy-in. I look forward to seeing how this affects the discipline of the student in 2020.



House Committee

The House Comm were much more mature and in control of their portfolios in the second semester. They opened up more to my involvement, and were more engaged in getting guidance from me on events. We had very good events, and a Comm that was more active, one that showed up to all events.

I am very happy to report that St Mary Hall was a runner up to the 2019 Community Engagement Award, represented by the JK CE Rep, Sesona.

In the 4th Semester we had a successful House Comm recruitment process. St Mary Hall uses the Election process of recruitment. In JK it was a big success, with very impressive applications and outstanding grazzle speeches. I was very proud to be sitting in the grazzle sessions, listening to the amazing plans that my ladies had in mind for their own home. All the portfolios were filled, with eager visionaries, who I look forward to serving with next year.

Events

2nd Semester

- Sports events through the semester
- 27th July: Movie night
- 3rd August: St Mary Hall Give 5 Fun Run – marshalling and running tuck shop
- 5th October: Combined Beach trip & Awards Ceremony
- 26th October: Comm Appreciation Breakfast

The House Comm worked together to bring the events to fruition. The events are well marketed and the House Comm drum up excitement before the events. However, participation in the residence is declining as the year progresses. I understand that in first term most 1st year students would attend, but as they get more used to University life and find their own feet, they have slowly stopped attending as well. The returners have very poor attendance despite the marketing efforts of the Comm. This is

unfortunately not an isolated case of John Kotze House alone, as, University-wide, this is the case.

JK FUN AWARDS

YOUR FRIEND MUST HAVE A FEW SPECIAL QUALITIES ABOUT HER!

NOMINATE HER FOR AN AWARDS...

YOU'RE ALLOWED TO NOMINATE AS MANY FRIENDS AS YOU WANT

ARE YOU READY?

JK BEACH TRIP & AWARDS

PORT ALFRED
5th OCTOBER,
depart @8:30am -9am
R80 per.person

FOOD AND DRINKS WILL BE PROVIDED.
(only additional wine and ciders allowed, NO SPIRITS)

NO GUESTS ALLOWED.



Discipline

1st and 2nd Semester

The offences that have been encountered at John Kotze this semester have not been of a serious caliber.

Of the 34 sanctions raised in John Kotze, 2 have not completed outstanding hours, and their names have been forwarded to the Registrar for withholding of examination results.

Maintenance

The delay in the resolution of maintenance issues continues to be a concern. The washing machines and outside lights are the main concern as the delays are the most concerning.

Currently, all the safety lights that are mounted on the outside wall of the John Kotze building do not work. They do not switch on automatically, as they should when night falls. This has been the case for many months, and requisitions have been made, unsuccessfully.

That being said, our Hall Administrator, Brenda, and Housekeeper, Bulelwa, have a very good relationships with the building and maintenance division, and manage to follow up with success in most cases.

Olive Schreiner House

ANNUAL REPORT INPUTS FROM OLIVE SCHREINER HOUSE, ST MARY HALL

Housekeeping and maintenance continue to be a challenge for Olive Schreiner. Matters noted by students in the fix-it book, are left unattended for very long periods and even when indicated as addressed, the matters remained unresolved. Students even re-wrote issues in the book in the hopes that their matters will be attended to, but to no avail.

We had frequent challenges with electrical shortages in the common room. Since I started as house warden in February of 2019, 2 of the 6 power outlets have not been working in the combined big and small common rooms. Especially during exam times, students study in these venues and require access to power outlets. I have personally checked, and they are still not functional to this day, even after being reported often.

Lighting in and around the residence have been attended to, most of the lights reported have been fixed and are in working condition.

Dealing with noise around res is still a great challenge, especially over weekends and due to our res being situated right on the path that most students walk between upper campus and

town. I have also struggled with this, especially during exam times when students pass our res in the early morning hours. It is particularly hard to enforce any noise rules, because by the time one gets to the perpetrators, they have passed and are no longer within the perimeters of the hall. A security guard's presence during crucial times on the route passing OS would certainly deter students from being rowdy and causing such disturbance.

We still have not received any clarity on how to deal with instances where students are caught smoking marijuana – this is a common occurrence and the fact that the university has not taken an official stance on this, makes it challenging for wardens to deal with this matter.

The new hall rule, "Phoneless Thursdays" has been consistently applied and it seems that the residents are slowly embracing it. They hold each other accountable on Thursdays and engage in robust conversations during meal times. I think it was such a good initiative and we should definitely continue the implementation in 2020.

We had successful events during the second semester of 2019, most notably:

- Common room revamp, where myself and the House Committee cleaned, organised and renovated the small common room, turning it into a functional study area,
- A Community Engagement project where we painted the walls at Little Star Creche,
- A House beach trip to Port Alfred and
- Our House Leavers' Dinner and Prizegiving

It was also during this semester that the unfortunate and tragic murder of Uyinene occurred. The residents were visibly shaken by this and we often had informal conversations in corridors and in the common room regarding gender based violence, xenophobia and many other topical matters that are reality in our country. The residents are very supportive of me and of each other and I truly value each and every one of them.

Phelps house

Phelps House Report 2019



October 2018 beamed the dawn of a new areas once again in the Phelps house as a new house committee was elected. They were inspired by the theme of 2018 which was 'Phenomenal Woman' and therefore, decided on the theme of 'Royalty', with their key slogan being "Never forget that you're a star, 'cause royalty is who you are". The new house comm worked tirelessly to make the arrival of the new first years the most memorable one. Although we were one short of the entertainment rep we were soon joined by Khanyisile Tshabalala who became part of the team and did an amazing job.



Phelps house Comm 2019

On the first Saturday of o-week we welcomed 13 new members of the Phelps family who were our first years. In the true 'Phelpie' style we welcomed our new family members with warmth and love so special that as tradition they officially cut the ribbon to their new home for the year. Each new family member opened their new room with their mentor for the year and with the rest of house comm and their family members there to witness the moment.



Sub-warden Welcoming First Year

This year's St Mary Welcome Brunch was organised by Phelps house and John Kotze combined. It had been the first time the houses came together to organise such an event with the help of our hall administrator Mrs Brenda Meyer. The same was done for the leavers' dinner that was hosted by the hall later in the year. Both events were a success and the students in hall had fun at the events. The leavers' dinner captivated many students in particular through the guest speaker Ms Chipso Sambo from the Accounting department, who motivated and inspired the girls to do their best always.



First years' at the brunch and Leaver's Dinner deco

This year in the hall we participated in the hall games which we won in partnership with Lilian Britten house. These games included playing different sports such as hockey and netball against other houses in the hall. A variety of students participated in the games ranging from first years to the seniors. As we realised that attending any events in the house was poor we decided to introduce an award called the 'Best House Spirit Award'. This proved as a great motivator for the students in the house as the numbers to attend the events increased.



Hall Sport events

Although a lot of good initiatives and events happened in the house this year, we also experienced a number of difficulties related to depression, anxiety and divide amongst a student and the house. During the year the house did experience seniors who felt that they were above the house rules. This created disparities amongst the seniors and the sub-wardens. We also had a few bullying incidents which the warden attended too and discussed with the concerned students. The support received from the hall warden also helped in dealing with these incidents, and that was something we did not have in the hall previously from permanent hall wardens.



Phelps head student, warden and sub-wardens

The house also received a number of awards at the leavers dinner which included the hall sport award, the community engagement and were winners at the hall gender quiz event organised by the transformation reps of the hall.

This year has been one of resilience and perseverance for the house. We have experienced the best and worst times but we still came together to make it work.

Lillian Britten House

This year in Lillian Britten has been marked by achievements and challenges.

On the one hand, academic performance in the house has notably improved from last year. We are particularly proud of our first year students who placed third out of all the residences in terms of

academic performance in the June examinations. This was a significant improvement from last year when, as a house of 42 students, 9 students failed more than 2 subjects in the June exams.

On the other hand, the vibrancy of residence life declined from previous years during 2019. After Founder's Lodge Annex returned back to Founders Hall, the number of students residing in Lillian Britten reduced to 30 students. Because of this, we were not able to fill all the House Committee positions we had available to us and this has affected the number of house events we were able to organise per semester. Two events were held during the second semester in 2019.12.06

A champagne breakfast was held on Women's Day. We enjoyed drinks and snacks and discovered the sisterhood that comes from sharing an increasingly loud game of 30 seconds.



In November we had our final house event of the year, our traditional awards evening. This was a formal dinner. We laughed at the artful humour behind the awards that were given after which the residents of Lillian Britten, elected a strong House



Committee to take forward the Lillian Britten tradition during 2020. The new House committee members proudly received the torch from the 2019 House committee during the event.



The problems of water shortages and load-shedding became slightly easier to bear as a result of sisterhood and patience. However, they have affected the willingness to return to residence in future years. Despite these challenges we fully expect 2020 to be an amazing year that brings with it new opportunities to bond and flourish together.