



# SOETDORING

SEPTEMBER 2015-APRIL 2016



## 1<sup>ST</sup> YEARS

During our annual 1<sup>st</sup> year welcoming at the arrival of our new 1<sup>st</sup> years at the residence, they (and their parents/families) were introduced to the RC and Miss Lee, our residence head. First years were up and down the stairs all day moving in. After a brief explanation of life in Soetdoring everyone enjoyed a delicious picnic with an enormous harvest table.



The 1<sup>st</sup> years loved the RAG experience during the 1<sup>st</sup> two weeks, and after the first year committee was elected, this is what they had to say:

The time of our lives... this is the perfect description of university so far. Rag was an amazing experience! It was a place of hard work, but also a place where many new friendships began. Soetdoring already feels like my home, I feel blessed with all my new sisters and I look forward to the year ahead!~*Germieke van Rooyen, Chairman*

RAG was really a very special experience. It was so nice to work on something, which you knew would make a difference, with new friends. I enjoy living in Soetdoring very much and I cannot wait for all the Soetdoring times ahead!~*Anneri James, Finances*

It was definitely something new and exciting, tiring, but a lot of fun. Eventually “filling the gaps” became fun. Seeing how much joy our hard work brought to others was emotionally rewarding. ~*Zaphezulu Thembani, RAG*

My RAG experience was awesome. I really enjoyed meeting and interacting with other First Years on the RAG farm. I especially enjoyed the RAG procession. Seeing the community coming out to support us was a priceless moment for me. Also, seeing the smiles on the

little children's faces just made my heart melt. If I could relive the RAG experience, I definitely would. ~*Amanda Muchocho, Academics*

RAG was a great experience. I love the cause and the willingness under the students. Everyone got their hands dirty for charity. It was in short: IMPRESSIVE. A new chapter in our lives has begun and we (the First Years) are not holding back. We are joining committees and getting involved. What a time to be alive! ~*Aletmari Maritz, Diversity & Environmental*

RAG was an unforgettable experience. I learned how to speed walk and eat in the run. I made a lot of great friends and bonded with my fellow Soetstes while we worked until the morning hours. It was an all smile and tired eyes two weeks. ~*Deoné de Koker, First Years*

I remember quite clearly my first day at the RAG Farm. At first I was not really sure why I had to make flowers out of coloured paper and polystyrene balls when we could simply pick them from the road but after much explaining, I understood that this was one of the ways the university thanked the community for their support throughout the year as well as a way to encourage us first years to work together and build relationships with each other despite being in different residences. My favourite RAG moment was the night before the parade when we were asked to use hairdryers, newspapers and cardboard to speed up the drying process for our floats. The SERIOUS looks on everybody's faces killed me! But I was glad it all worked out in the end. ~*Tumelo, Culture*

The overall rag experience in my perspective can be described like any other younger sibling: they will always win. You literally walk a thousand miles in order to make them happy, but in the end, it is all for a good cause. ~*Oarabile, Social*

It was a long walk daily (or for me more like a long ride in a wheel chair), folding flowers, glue everywhere and I think we eventually felt like newspaper. It was worth it. I met great new friends and laughed a lot. It was exhausting but a feast and something to remember. ~*Sollie Cronje, Sport*

We are proud of our 1<sup>st</sup> year committee who continues to assist the RC and work with the RC 1<sup>st</sup> years to give feedback regarding 1<sup>st</sup> year affairs.

Gateway was kicked off this year with huge success. Faculty specific openings prepared our new Soetstes for the challenges of 1<sup>st</sup> year. We added our own excitement by organizing dozens of fun inters with all residences all over campus in-between the RAG farm work.

We also introduced our coffee sisters during this time and the 1<sup>st</sup> years could bond with the seniors over coffee. Many chocolates, biscuits and funny stories were shared as our 1<sup>st</sup> years became part of our community.

The P3 Mentors played a pivotal role in orientation and continue to guide the 1<sup>st</sup> years during informative mentor sessions.

Our annual High tea was also hosted during the 1<sup>st</sup> term, with a bit of a twist this year. The graduation of the 1<sup>st</sup> years was also announced. Many guest speakers spoke about the importance and meaning of women empowerment, and we were even joined by some of our alumni.



### **PRIME**

The 1<sup>st</sup> of many quarterly Prime tea cans was very successful. These tea cans are aimed at breaking down the barrier between the RC (especially the Prime portfolio) and the residence community. Everyone felt comfortable discussing any residence related topics or personal issues/feelings related to the residence with Sunitha in a safe, informal setting with tea and cake. Everyone was welcome and everyone could have their voice heard, especially 1<sup>st</sup> years.



## SPORT

The 1<sup>st</sup> years have significantly improved Soetdoring's sport "track rate" this year. They placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 1<sup>st</sup> year athletics (our seniors also placed 3<sup>rd</sup> at senior athletics later on) and 4<sup>th</sup> in the 1<sup>st</sup> year swimming gala (the RC placed 4<sup>th</sup> in the RC relay), both of which has never been achieved before. They also went on to take the winning trophies as champions in both the Gateway cup Volleyball and Basketball.



## SOCIAL

In the 1<sup>st</sup> week of the last term of 2015 there was a Welcome Back Braai after the short holidays. This was just a informal internal residence event to allow ladies to catch up and to create cross cultural bonding. Everyone had a nice chance to relax before the serious academic time began.



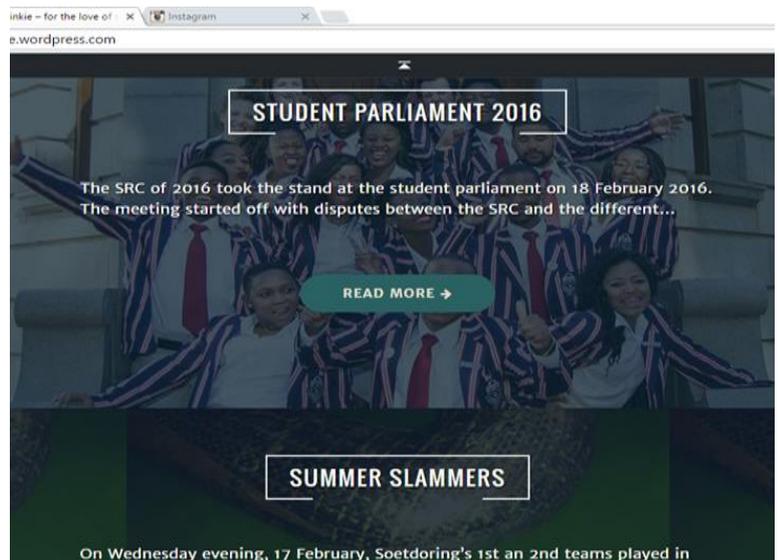
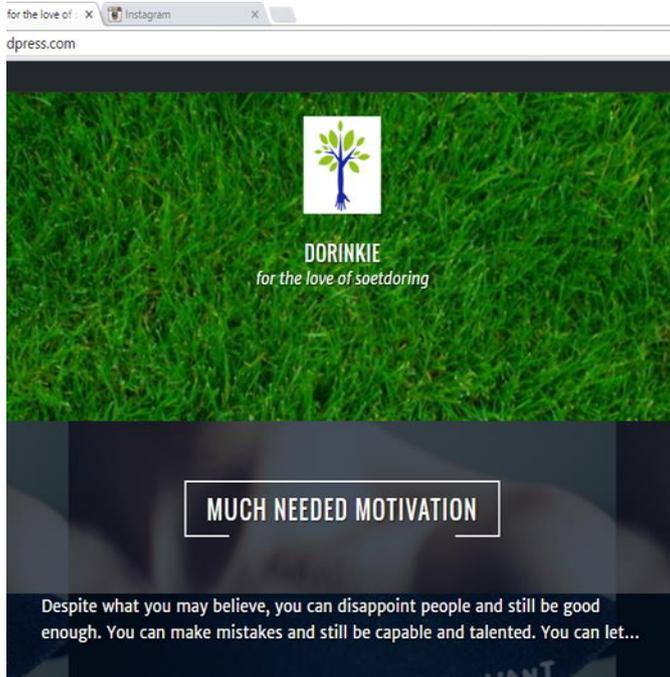
On the 4<sup>th</sup> of March took place the Soetdoring-Armentum Anniversary Celebration. Where "married couples" between our residences had the opportunity to reunite during a fun night out.



## MEDIA AND MARKETING

Since the end of 2015 we have been using Instagram as another social media platform for communicating with the residence and campus. Our account (@soetstes) has grown a lot in popularity in just a few months.

2016 Marked the year of the new Dorinkie. Our residence newsletter has undergone a complete makeover and is now an active and interactive blog. Every possible aspect of university and residence life is reported on in stunning articles by the Dorinke team.



## CULTURE

We had a "Spontane ser" in 2015. This is an event unique to Soetdoring. Every lady gets the opportunity to take part in something similar to Kleinser. The ladies practiced a short medley and then performed it (as a surprise) at several male residences. After singing they had a short inter with each res.



In 2015, during the final weeks of the Bucket List challenge, ladies were running around on campus in their Bucket List T-shirts to complete their challenges in time. Soetdoring collected an enormous amount of money for charity with that challenge. Ladies also had wonderful experiences during Ubuntu and the In My Shoes Campaign. In the end we placed 4<sup>th</sup> overall in the floatbuilding with our partners Wag 'n Bietjie and Vishuis, and we are still awaiting the final results of RAG Mass.



**OVERALL THIS HAS BEEN A SUCCESSFUL HALF-TERM FOR THE RC AND HOUSE SOETDORING OF 2015/2016.**