2019

SILENE PSO

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

"IT IS NOT IN THE STARS TO HOLD OUR DESTINY BUT IN OURSELVES."

SILENE.PSO SILENE PSO

WHO ARE WE?

Silene PSO is a private student organization, founded in 2008 and operates within Stellenbosch University. We are one of 10 PSO's and one of 4 female only PSO's. Our organization consists of approximately 1200 womxn living in private accommodation across campus and in surrounding areas. **We are not a residence and all PSO students are expected to stay in private accommodation on their own accord, as we do not offer permanent lodging.**

Our organization coordinates the transition of students from high school to university and campus life. This entails a variety of aspects you as a person would like to experience. We ensure you are a well rounded individual when you leave as a graduate of Stellenbosch University and of course, help provide as many opportunities as possible, to formulate relationships with diverse groups of people. One thing you need in order to survive your university career is networking; you cannot go through this journey without resources, and we at Silene try our best to help you establish as many as possible. As an organisation, we provide our students with great opportunities including, but not limited to, sports teams, music, acting and creative platforms, discussions on important topics, critical thinking, social impact opportunities, leadership development platforms and social events such as dances and appreciation evenings.

VALUES

Respect – We strive to ensure our members are treated how they would like to be treated as individuals with compassion and empathy as well as treating our respective environments with care and tolerance.

Acceptance – We aim to provide a space where members are free to express their values, opinions and cultures while promoting diversity and embracing the differences within our members.

Individuality – We ensure a space whereby our members feel that because they are accepted they can express their originality in order to flourish. Within Silene we consider the individual aspects of each of our members contributing to the identity of the house.

Unity – We encourage collaboration and contribution to the identity of the house to ensure a welcoming culture where our members can express themselves by promoting a sense of belonging through integration and inclusivity.

Friendship – We encourage togetherness through intentional and authentic connection. A space of compassion, empathy and vulnerability to create an affinity.

VISION

"We as Silene strive to create a unified, value-driven platform, where our members can grow into passionate thought-leaders. We aspire to be inclusive by providing the opportunity for our members to express their individuality, while ensuring respect for their diversity, in order for them to feel acceptance within Silene. We undertake the responsibility to develop the graduate attributes of our members through encouraging critical thinking and facilitating a sustainable, transformative environment. This will shape our Ubuntu inspired community."

FROM OUR PRIMARIA

Dear Silene,

I hope you are as excited as I am to start this incredible new journey. I can't wait to meet you and to start to get to know who you are and to see you grow into the wonderful womxn that you are destined to be. My name is Julia Lamprecht and I am a final year LLB student. I have walked a very long journey to be where I am today and don't know if it would have been possible without Silene. I am not going to lie, it has been rough, stressful and extremely difficult but I won't change it for the world because I finally get to live out one of my goals which is leading this incredible house that has played such a big and irreplaceable role in live thus far.

Silene has allowed me to be who I want to be. I have learned so much, grown so much and developed myself and my skills to an extent that I never thought could be possible. We do not want you to fit into a box when you get here; we do not want you to be scared, lost or alone, we want you to be **you** because that is what makes our house so great. We value each and everyone member and appreciate what you bring to the table and we do whatever we can to help you flourish in whatever way that is; from being a Matie Cheerleader, to being the future Chairperson of the Student Representative Council, Maties Sport star or the next amazing academic. We appreciate and foster every single member and do everything in our power to make your university experience amazing.

Take advantage of leaving that nest and allow yourself to flourish in every way possible. University is a distinctly unique time of your life because you find out who you want to be and who you don't. Each mistake you make from here on forward and every failure you may experience is not something to shy away from, it is something to embrace as it only makes you stronger and more sure of yourself than you were before. I can say from personal experience that mistakes and failures are needed to figure out where you need to be within yourself. So persevere when times get tough, enjoy the small moments and make the most of being at one of the top Universities in South Africa. Stellenbosch University is one of the most innovative, forward thinking and welcoming institutions in the world and we here at Silene intend to make your integration and stay at this fantastic campus, simply unforgettable.

Lots of love,
Julia

FROM OUR VICE-PRIMARIA

Hello Silene! My name is Sharne Landsberg and I have the absolute honour of being the Vice-Primaria for Silene during the 2018/2019 term. I am an LLB student and I come from the beautiful Melkbosstrand on the Western Coast. I study law because I am extremely passionate about human rights and equal opportunities for all. And, something almost every law student at Stellenbosch will say, I really wanted to be like the lawyers on TV! I absolutely love a good slice of carrot cake and my favorite series is definitely How to Get Away with Murder, cliché right?

I am so excited for you to be joining the Silene family and I cannot wait to meet you all. Silene has been a part of my life for three years now and I am looking forward to serving the house and its members in the coming year. The reason why I love Silene so much is because it is an extremely welcoming environment where everyone is accepted for who they are, no matter what. In the past three years I have met the most amazing people and incredible friendships were made. As an individual I have grown and developed way more than I though was possible, simply by being involved and by making use of the resources provided by the house.

My biggest goal for Silene would be to create the ultimate welcoming space where everyone will feel comfortable and experience a sense of belonging. Entering the space of university can be quite daunting at first, and I would love for every member of Silene to feel completely at home. We as Silene strive to create the ultimate “home away from home” experience for all of our members.

What I am most looking forward to for 2019 is definitely meeting all of you, I am extremely excited! I cannot wait to build new relationships with everyone and to see how you all grow and develop into even more amazing individuals. Silene offers incredible opportunities for you to challenge yourself and to develop vital skills that will assist you during your time at university and afterwards when you follow your chosen career path.

A little advice from my side would be to enjoy every moment and challenge yourself constantly. Your time at university is bound to be the most amazing experience you will ever have. Although it will be scary at times, try and grab every opportunity that comes your way and to strive to reach your full potential. Trust me, you are going to love it!

A quote that is very close to my heart is one by Maya Angelou: “Nothing can dim the light that shines from within!” I cannot wait to meet you all! See you next year!

Silene love,
Sharne Landsberg

FROM OUR PSO COORDINATOR

“I’ve come to believe that each of us has a personal calling that’s as unique as a fingerprint – and that the best way to succeed is to discover what you love and then find a way to offer it to others in the form of service, working hard, and also allowing the energy of the universe to lead you.” - Oprah Winfrey

Dear Silene Member,
Congratulations with your acceptance at Stellenbosch University and a warm welcome to Silene. Being able to study at a tertiary institution is a wonderful opportunity and I wish you all the best as you enter this challenging, yet exciting, phase of your life. At Silene we celebrate our individuality and we are looking forward to meet each and every one of you, listen to your unique stories and learn from your experiences. We welcome you with friendliness and hospitality and we hope to make your journey a wonderful experience. We respect, and celebrate, unity and we undertake to listen with respect and compassion and to answer your questions with honesty. We promote innovation through future focused thought leadership. We want to encourage you to participate in as many ways as you possibly can, to build purposeful relationships and inclusive networks, so that after your journey at Stellenbosch University and Silene PSO, you leave as a well-rounded citizen.
As PSO Coordinator, I am responsible for managing Silene, along with the House Committee and the Mentors. We are your support network that will assist with your academic and social integration at the University. Please, if you have any questions, do not hesitate to ask. Silene believes in a value driven system. We take these values into account in all we do and all the activities we participate in and host. This mean that we, as members of Silene, held one another accountable for our decisions and actions, based on our value system.
We are excited to walk this journey with you and we hope to contribute to the photos and memories that will fill up the photo album of your life. My wish for you is that you will, above and beyond your course, also find your unique calling and that you will open yourself to new friendships and experiences. I look forward to listen to your unique stories.

Best wishes,
Lisinda M. de Jager (Mrs)
LLB LLM (SU)
PSO Coordinator
021 808 4854 / lisinda@sun.ac.za

MEET OUR HOUSE COMMITTEE

As HC of Silene, we represent the house and its members. Our aim for the upcoming term is to practice value(s)-driven leadership while creating a community of empowered womxn. They strive for unity through individuality.

"Challenges are what make life interesting and overcoming them is what makes life meaningful"

PRIMARIA & VICE-PRIMARIA

SHARNE LANDSBERG

Vice-Primaria
Safety
Seniors & Alumni
Huisdans & Silene Celebration Evening

From: Melkbosstrand, Western Cape
Age: 21
Height: 1,56
Studying: LLB
Favourite food: Carrot Cake
Favourite colour: yellow
Favourite Series: How to get away with Murder

JULIA LAMPRECHT

Primaria
Leadership Development
Critical Engagement & Womxn Empowerment
Huisdans & Silene Celebration Evening

From: Durbanville, Western Cape
Age: 22
Height: 1,8 m (had to squat for this picture)
Studying: LLB
Favourite food: Salami
Favourite colour: Dusty pink
Favourite Series: Grey's Anatomy

STEPHANE VENTER

Social Community Interaction, Social Impact, Sustainability, Connect & Tour

I'm Stephane Venter, I'm a born and bread Namibian and a third year BEd foundation phase student - which is actually very ironic, because in Matric I promised myself that would never go back to "that place" again, but look at me know... To me Silene, is a safe haven and was the only place where I felt at home. I want to make that impact on someone else's life in the coming year. In 2019, I'm looking forward to connecting with different communities on campus and oh, yes - varsity cup. I'm super excited for another Matie win. A little tip - Breathe, take care of yourself and naps, take naps. In your 1st year you will have many ups and downs, but take it step by step. It's very different from what you might know, but you have the freedom to experience every bit of the Matie life.
Favourite food : braai broodjie & sushi (and wine)
Quote: "Let your smile change the world but don't let the world change your smile" My favourite series is definitely Friends (for a lekker laugh) and Grey's anatomy - here for Mc steamy & Mc dreamy

ASHLEIGH BUXTON

First Years, Social Community Interaction, Sport, Vensters & Connect Tour

Hi, I'm Ashleigh and I am from Shelly Beach, KZN. I have spent the last three years studying a BSc in biodiversity and ecology, I am now going to start the 2019 year as a first year BComm student studying public and development management. I have always wanted to be a superhero, and these last three years at Stellies has helped me realize that I can achieve that dream by saving the world from itself. So I have enrolled for a 3 year Bcom degree with the end goal of being an environmental manager, which hopefully will help me save something. I don't know, we will see what happens. I love Silene because it has given me a platform to help discover who I am and who I want to become. Silene has given me a voice within the University, and made me realize that I am not just a number in a group of thousands, but that I actually do matter, and my opinions are valid. Silene has been my everything, my platform for making friends, a place to grow both personally and as a leader and most importantly a place for me to feel comfortable with being myself. I don't know if I have a favourite food to be honest. I pretty much eat anything, and if I haven't had it before I will definitely try it. Except for oysters and snails, because those are just, uhm yeah. My favourite quote is "Believe in your dreams. They were given to you for a reason." My favourite series is how to get away with murder. So obsessed, but not a psycho killer, I swear.

MADELEINE STEMMET

Financial Manager, Secretary, Culture & Diversity

I'm Madeleine Stemmet and I am currently studying BSc Human Life Science. I have always been fascinated by Human Biology.
Silene will always be close to my heart because it has given me a place to be myself and discover my own potential. My goal is to create the same space for future members of Silene where they can grow into their full potential. I look forward to watching our newcomers flourish within Silene.
My favourite food is ANYTHING with peanut butter!! The only series that I will willingly sit down and watch is Criminal Minds.
My favourite quote is : "You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem and smarter than you think. "

NICOLA SPINGIES

Head Mentor, Social Media & Communications

Hi, my name is Nicola Spingies and I am from Johannesburg (actually Krugersdorp but now one knows where that is). I study BA Language and Culture: I want to maybe go into journalism or linguistics, I find languages so interesting and would love to study them more. My favourite food is Sushi - honestly the love of my life. Meraki's banana bread French toast is the mistress (seriously, go and have it). My favourite series I am currently watching is 'Maniac', it's incredibly well done. My favourite quote: "Don't be afraid to be soft. No one wants hard avocado on toast."
Silene just feels like somewhere you want to be and like you get serious FOMO if you aren't part of it. The people are all incredibly genuine and nice and will always go the extra mile for you. Not to sound super cliché, but it truly is a 'home away from home'. My biggest goal is to keep that safe space alive. I want to do this by encouraging building healthy and strong relationships with the people you meet in the house.
In 2019 I am looking forward to seeing how it unfolds. I am so excited to see the newcomers become a part of our dreams for the house and how we will flourish together.

MEGAN OLIVIER

Social Community Interaction, MDL (Music, Dance, Drama & Literature)

Hi everyone, my name is Megan and I am from Cape Town. I am a 3rd year Education student. I am studying education because I see it as one of the first ways to make a difference in someone's life no matter how insignificant it may seem at times. The reason I love Silene is because within this last year it has become my family and it has become my safe space where I know I can be myself at all times. One of my biggest goals is to create the life I would like to live with the people I would like to live it with. What I am most excited for in 2019 is to develop new skills and to meet new people along the way and hopefully impact their life's in a positive way. My ultimate way to spend a chilled night is eating my favourite food, hamburgers and chips, while switching my favourite series, Riverdale. A quote I choose to live by is "Don't wait, the time will never be just right" - Napoleon Hill

SHELI ARNON

Welcoming, Social Impact, Merchandise

Hello beautiful people! My name is Sheli, I come from Upington, a small town in the Northern Cape. After studying a BSc degree in Molecular Biology last year, I quickly came to realize that it wasn't the direction for me, and decided to switch to BEd Foundation Phase to chase my passion for people.
Silene will always be my home away from home, a place where so many unique people come together to form a beautiful community filled with love and pride. I am most looking forward to seeing where this new year takes me and what doors will open up in 2019.
My favourite food is potatoes in basically any form, and my favourite series is Rick and Morty.

"We rise by lifting others."

DAVID RODWELL
STRATEGIC ADVISOR

What you are studying and why? MComm in Financial Risk Management. Love the world of finance and how it integrates in the world we live in. I also really enjoy the financial engineering aspect where a potential problem can be solved by incorporating economical and statistical theory.

Why you love Silene and your biggest goal: Silene is a PSO with a large drive for excellence and developing potential which is an awesome thing! My biggest goal for the year is to assist in the growth of the leadership and help individuals to unlock their full potential.

What are you looking forward to in 2019: It will be my first time not in a residence so the independence aspect is very exciting.

Favourite Food, Quote and Series: Food: Sushiiiiiii, Quote: The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams, series GoT.

MEET OUR MENTORS

Our play a very important role in our PSO because they are one of the first people newcomers interact with. Mentors also foster the wellness of our newcomers. They also keep the relationship going throughout the year, providing mentor-mentee support through the Be-Well program, encouraging participation within the house and building bonds that last. The mentors will also provide academic support in collaboration with other communities.

"A mentor is someone who allows you to see the hope inside yourself." -Oprah Winfrey

HEAD MENTOR

Hello new member of Silene, my name is Nicola Spingies and I am the Head Mentor for Silene in 2019. Welcome to our amazing PSO, where we value friendships and individuality. We as the Silene mentor group of 2019 promise to do our best to make you feel welcomed and accepted into our PSO, because at the end of the day, we are not just a PSO, we are a family. All of the friendships you make we can almost guarantee will be everlasting.

As mentors we try our best to be available for you whenever you need help, guidance or just a chat. We want to form not just a relationship, but a friendship with our mentees (that's you by the way). We will help you out with all your academic struggles, we will be your shoulder to cry on and we will be who you call for a celebratory drink.

As mentors we want to help you grow and develop into a better version of yourself. We are going to challenge you, and open up your mind to a whole new world (que song from Aladdin). However, at no point will we make you feel uncomfortable. We want Silene to be your brave space, your home away from home. As mentors we will do everything in our power to make this happen.

We are so excited to meet you all and literally cannot wait until welcoming. If you are nervous, don't be scared, we have all been there (for some of us it was literally last year). All we ask is that you be willing to interact with us, and get to know us, I promise we will not bite. We are counting down the days until we get to meet you, and as you read this we are planning a kick-ass programme for you. So be brave, and join us on the ride of your lifetime, I promise once it starts, it will not be a ride you will want to get off of.
So we will leave this message, not with a goodbye, but rather a "see you later".

MENTORS 2019

Top row: Kelly Lourinho, Kyla Serfontien, Jana Labuschagne
Middle row: Rebecca Sundren, Andrea Barnard, Marne du Toit
Bottom row: Angela Walker, Sigcino Ntshangase, Michaela Heynes

MENTORS 2019

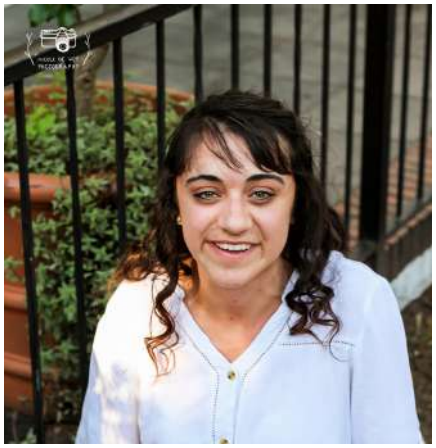
Top row: Chene van Niekerk, Mikayla Sulter
Bottom row: Lisa Britz, Tamsyn Blake

MEET THE SENIORS COMMITTEE

Meet the new Silene Seniors Committee for 2018/2019. This wonderful group will assist the House Committee and play a crucial role during the welcoming period as well as the rest of the year! This year, the seniors committee members will all assist with the various portfolios of the house. We are so excited to be working alongside such an amazing group of womxn.

"Leadership is about empathy. It is about having the ability to relate to and connect with people for the purpose of inspiring and empowering their lives." - Oprah Winfrey

SENIORS COMMITTEE



Top row: Melissa van den Berg, Marike Spamer, Candice van Vuuren
Middle row: Suzanne Fourie, Liane Bender, Elze Cilliers
Bottom row: Cherise du Plooy

THINGS TO LOOK FORWARD TO

Throughout the year we do lots of fun things and have many events including but not limited to Greek Party, Huisfondsdans, Huisdans, Hockey, Netball, Toneelfees and much more. Here are some pictures to make you excited.

WELCOMING

FIRST YEARS GUARDIAN

To all the new members of the Silene family, welcome. My name is Ashleigh, and I am your first-year guardian for the year 2019. This means that I am responsible for your well-being during your time at Stellenbosch University. If your mentor is not available for a chat, then I am the next best thing. Whether it be about making you laugh or smile, or distracting you from the stress that is University, I will always be available to help you out.

I am not lying when I say that these next couple of years will be the craziest, funniest, most stressful and happiest years you could ever experience. So take a seat and buckle in, because you are about to take a ride to the best memories of your life. Does that sound scary? Well don't you worry, because if ever you get lost or need a helping hand, your Silene family will always be there to help you back on to the right path.

As first year guardian I can honestly say that we as the Silene leadership team are working really hard to make sure that you have an amazing experience with us in your 2019 year. We are making sure that you will feel comfortable to just be yourself, and if you have not really discovered yourself yet? Well, that is not a problem at all, because as a Silene member you will learn a lot about yourself and your capabilities. Afterall, our main goal is to provide members with the opportunity to become the best version of themselves that they can be.

The important thing to remember is that life at University is what you make of it, and Silene is the place for you to not just fly, but to soar. So try as many new things as you can, take as many new opportunities that come your way and embark on every adventure that crosses your path. This is the time for you to live your own life, the way you want to.

I am so excited to meet you all in the new year, and I cannot wait to see how Silene is able to help you with your journey through Stellenbosch University.

WELCOMING LEADER

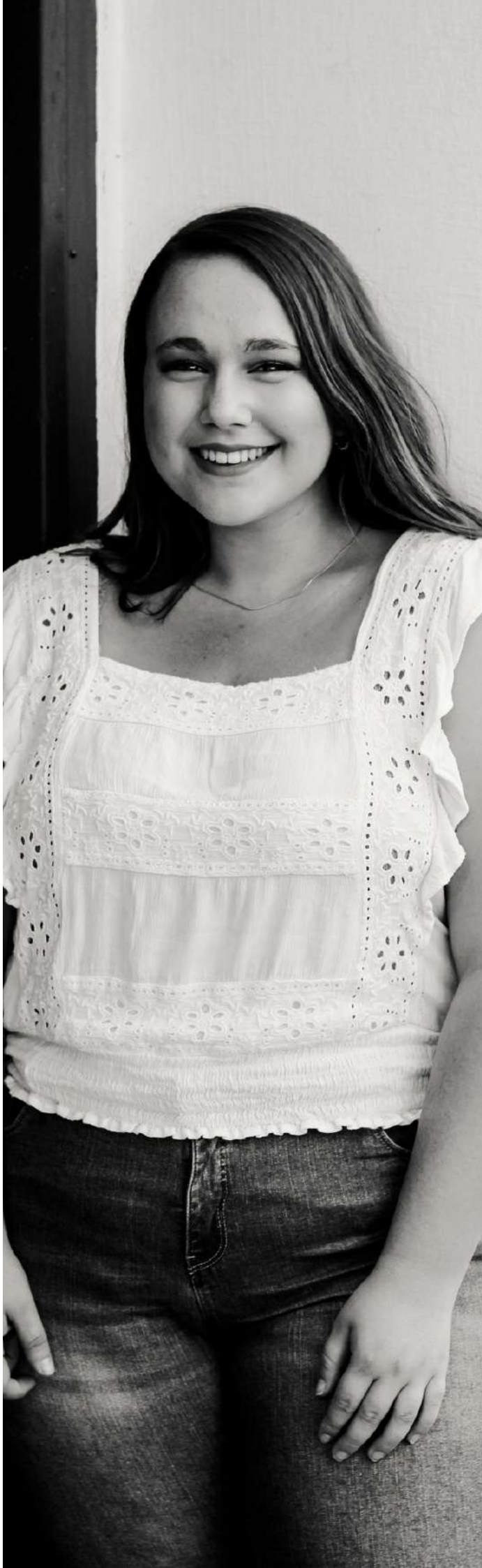
Hello Silene! I am Sheli, your welcoming leader for 2019. I am looking forward to meeting each and every one of you, and to welcome you into this new and exciting chapter of your life. I know exactly how terrifying it feels to come to University, just last year I was standing in your shoes, not knowing what to expect, but we are here to help you right from the start and give a helping hand wherever you may need it.

In welcoming you will be introduced to the University as a first-year student, as well as to Silene PSO and during this period you will experience all the weird and wonderful things that come together with the University life.

In this time you will grow and learn so much about yourself, and it will give you the first taste of beautiful times to come.

Please follow this link so we can get to know you a little better: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdKccWVl7k1-wAU-Ka4PYpsKjy9LF4QkzVeblBN8QbIM11Bmg/viewform?usp=sf_link

I hope you are just as excited as I am, see you soon Silene!



WELCOMING 2019

WHAT TO EXPECT

Welcoming runs from the **23rd of January 2019 to the 2nd of February 2019**. It is the period during which you as a first-year student gets introduced to the University as well as your respective communities (for you it's Silene PSO and Victoria Cluster). The Welcoming period is an opportunity for you to grow, learn and experience all the wonderful things our university has to offer. It is the time during which you will make some of your closest friend and learn so much about yourself and the people around you. We at Stellenbosch University have the unique opportunity to interact with so many different people from around the world. We also have the most amazing student life that will ensure that these next few years are the best years of your life.

The welcoming period acts as an introduction to what Stellenbosch University and Silene has to offer. During this time you will het to know Silene PSO, Stellenbosch University and your fellow first year student. Every day is packed with fun activities and opportunities for you to learn and grow. We have a wide verity of activities planned that cater for everyone. Some of these activities include dancing, singing, sports, meeting other first years from different PSO's and residences at Stellenbosch University, academic orientation and of course VENSTERS! We also have a campus and town tour planned that will help you find your way around Stellenbosch.

WHAT ABOUT SAFETY

Safety is one of our most important concerns. We have more than 10 members of our leadership that are trained and certified in First Aid. We will have safety information sessions as well as demonstrations to help you keep safe during Welcoming and for the rest of your years at Stellenbosch University. We also have shuttles running at 19:00 and 21:00 at night to help you get home safely during the Welcoming period; and there is a shuttle service that runs throughout the year to selected areas as well.

WHAT TO BRING

Comfortable walking shoes, comfortable clothes, water, a snack or 3, a pen and paper, your clothing order form, a white t-shirt, a black t-shirt, denim shorts, black pants (leggings or comfortable jeans) and something floral like a dress, jumpsuit or a shirt.

BUT, don't stress too much oubout what you are going to wear because we have some merchandise for you!

MERCHANDISE

We have some amazing merchandise for you to wear during welcoming and throughout the year. We will have a welcoming range as well as a summer and winter range. Our house colours are mint green, white and grey and we try to incorporate them into our merchandise as much as possible. We also try our best to make it as wearable as possible and hope you like it. The packet includes four shirts and a mint green scrunshie.

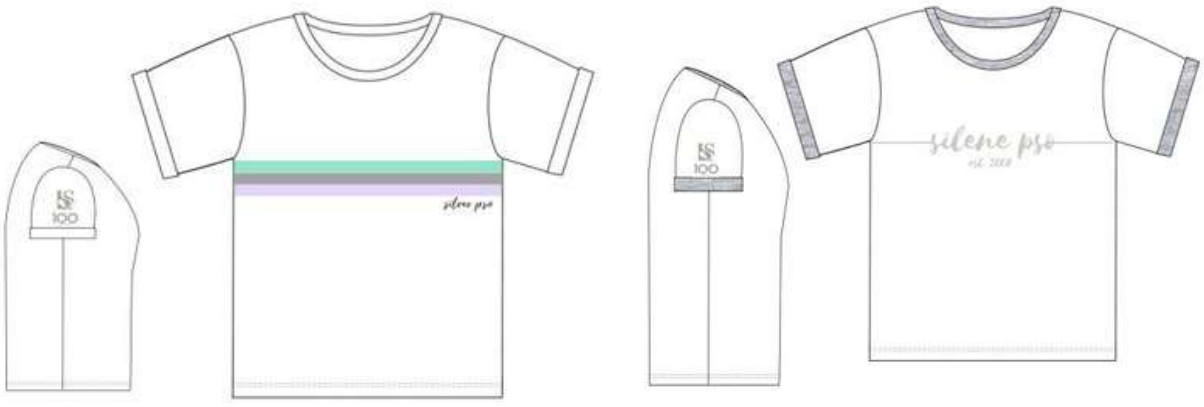
During welcoming we also have a food packet available for you to buy which includes **10 meals for the 10 day welcoming period**. This will include lunches and dinners as indicated on our welcoming program.

Please find our merchandise and food **order form** attached to this document and bring it along on the first day of welcoming. You can decide whether you would like to buy only the food, only the merchandise or both.

Merchandise only: R 400
Food only: R 400
Both Merchandise and food: R 800

PLEASE NOTE: You do not have to buy the package but if you do you don't have to stress about paying for it immediately. The package will get charged to your student account which is payable throughout the year. We will not be accepting cash during welcoming for the food or the merchandise.

Here is a sneak peak into our welcoming merchandise.



WHAT IS VENSTERS AND CONNECT?

This is an annual festival at Stellenbosch University where all the PSO's and residences partner up and create an epic show to raise awareness and funds for a social impact project and the entire Cape Town comes to experience it. Every year it is the biggest event in the whole of Stellenbosch and every single Maties student has participated in Vensters during their first year. This year we are partnered with Hippokrates Residence. They are from Tygerberg campus and majority of their students study medicine (to all the Grey's Anatomy fans out there). During Vensters you, as our first years, act and dance and have one of the best nights of your career as a student at the University of Stellenbosch for a good cause! We will be practicing for this show throughout the welcoming period and the last day will be the night of Vensters. Remember to invite your whole family and all of your friend to come and watch you dance and act your way into becoming a true Matie.

Our social impact project is the eco brick project where we build "bricks" out of not recyclable materials. These "bricks" then gets used to build schools and houses in underprivileged areas. You can find some more information about that on the next page,

FROM HIPPOKRATES

Hi Silene newcomer!

My name is Kristin Arends and I am the Primaria of Hippokrates. We have the privilege of being Connect Partners with Silene next year! I can guarantee you that you will have such a fantastic time practicing for the production. We have top class Connect leaders, choreographers, script writers and props designers between the two different communities. You can be assured that we have enough resources to be a highly successful partnership. Hippokrates is a residence on the Tygerberg campus with Amity, Respect and Truth as our house values. We describe ourselves as a residence full of fun, vibrant and hardworking individuals and thus you can rest assured that you will have a GREAT time during practises.

And what do you get out of this? A lifetime of friends emerging from this Silakrates partnership. We can't wait to get the ball rolling!

SUSTAINABILITY

We at Silene have a very big passion for our environment and truly want to change the word. That is why we have decided to make our social impact project for this year the ECO BRICK PROJECT. This project will be sustained throughout the year and will be starting off with a bang during the Welcoming period of 2019.

We would like to urge you to try and be as sustainable as possible with everything you do but we know it is difficult because most of our daily lives consists of using plastic and non recyclable things. Luckily we found a great solution for that problem by collaboration with the eco bricks project. Here is some more information on it.

VICTORIA CLUSTER

What is a "cluster"?

Students should not feel that they are only here to get a degree. The cluster initiative works to ensure that students are multifaceted and that a platform is created where students can live and learn. In essence, it connects residences and PSO's to form a greater community where resources and experiences can be shared. The large University community can make students feel like "just a number" and sticking with your faculty, residence or friendship circle could restrict your horizon... But a CLUSTER is just the right size! With clusters we are joining small families, building a sense of community and offering everyone a chance to broaden their horizon.

WHO is Victoria Cluster

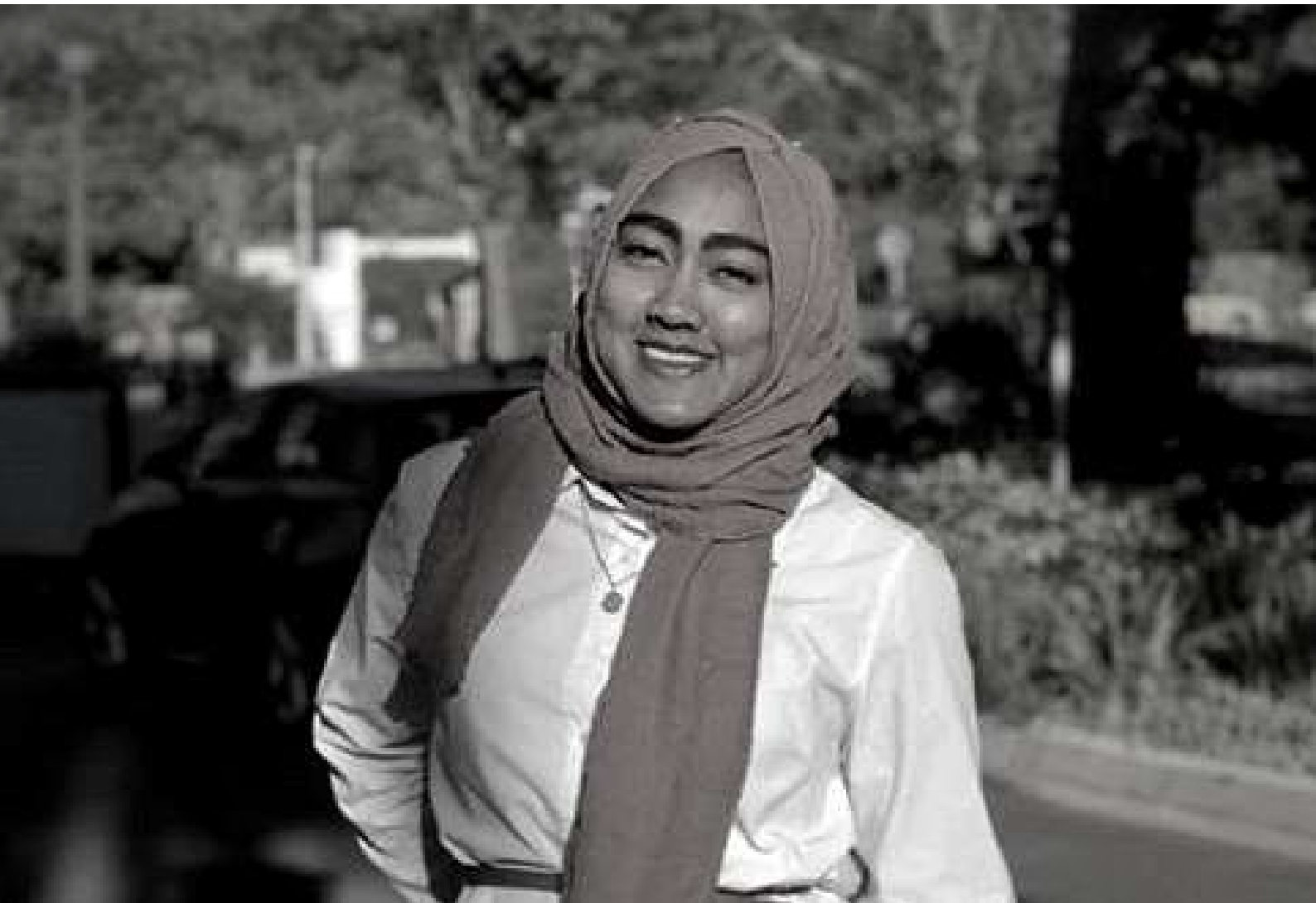
Victoria Cluster is not a mere concept or abstract idea. It is a community of brilliant, bold and beautiful people. This cluster boasts some of the best values such as respect, critical thinking, acceptance, individuality and unity, as well as a rich culture and history. Being a Victorian means that you will get to learn and live out these values and bring out the best in others allowing them to live out these values too. Victoria Cluster is arguably the tiniest cluster on campus creating the best opportunity for multiple intimate and authentic bonds to be formed!

The communities that make up our cluster are HARMONIE, MONICA, MEERHOFF, OUDE MOLEN, SILENE AND WILGENHOF

NOTE FROM THE CLUSTER CONVENER

Minaaz Allie

“Hello there newcomer! –Cues socially awkward wave- Congratulations on getting through your Matric exams and into university! You’ve worked hard and, yes, you can expect that it will have to be a theme in your life in order to succeed but you already have a team of people ready to back you and help you to balance your life. Getting into the swing of managing classes, studying, socializing and preparing for your future career can be overwhelming but we’ve gotten some practice and are ready to help you through it. This is why being a part of a broader community can really be something worth looking forward to! Being a Victorian will give you an opportunity to come as you are, be exposed to different kinds of people, ideas, cultures, backgrounds and general ways of existing. I am excited to be one of your Co-Conveners for 2018/19, thus, being a part of the team of people who gets to be a part of your university experience!”



NO ACCOMMODATION

We do not provide accommodation for our students and you are therefore responsible to find your won accommodation. Here are some links and names of websites and estate agents if you are still in need of accommodation in Stellenbosch.

Eikenhof http://www.eikenhofkoshuis.co.za/
Nooitgedacht https://nooitgedachta.co.za/
Archimedes http://www.stellies-student-stay.co.za/archimedes.html
Link to SU website - https://www.sun.ac.za/english/maties/Pages/Accommodation-PrivateAccommodation.aspx
Stellies student stay website - http://www.stellies-student-stay.co.za/accommodation.html
Some estate agents if you are interested in an apartment:
Neelsie Eiendomme, Nooitgedacht Real Estate (Pty) Ltd, Anna Basson Properties, Lew Geffen Sotheby's International Realty, Stellenbosch, Pam Golding Properties, Stellenbosch, Leapfrog, Stellenbosch, Keller Williams, Impact, RE/MAX, Oaktree Stellenbosch, Engel & Völkers, Engel & Volkers Stellenbosch, Seeff, Stellenbosch

CONTACT INFORMATION

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December 2018

Dear Student

CHARGING FIRST YEAR WELCOMING PACKAGES TO STUDENT ACCOUNTS.
Welcome to the PSO community of Stellenbosch University! You have been assigned to a PSO (private student organisation) due to the fact that you have elected not to stay in a residence in 2019. During the annual welcoming period in the beginning of the year, residences and PSOs take responsibility for introducing first years to Stellenbosch University in a welcoming manner.

Because PSOs do not have a dining hall (although some PSO's will arrange meals for their students in dining halls during the welcoming period) where students can enjoy meals, PSO first years are provided with "welcoming packages". These packages usually consist of a number of meals, clothing, water bottles, caps and other items unique to the particular PSO. During PSO registration on the first day of Welcoming (Wednesday, 23 January 2019), you will have the option of purchasing one of these welcoming packages at a set price (which may vary from PSO to PSO). Each PSO will also offer different options (both clothing and meals, only meals, only clothing, etc.) that students can then select. Please see the bottom of this email for more information.

Stellenbosch University utilizes a cashless system to allow students to purchase these packages hassle free. You, or your parents or guardian, will have to sign an acknowledgement of debt on the day so that the clothing, food, etc. for the welcoming period can be made available to you. After registration the cost will be charged to your student account to be paid with all other student-related expenses. **Please note that once the form is signed you will be liable for the costs of the package selected, regardless of you having all the meals or not, or not wanting the clothing after the first few days.**

Acquiring the "welcoming packages" is not compulsory, but we do want to encourage you to take the opportunity to do so as it will make your welcoming period a much more enjoyable experience. Please find attached the form for your completion. You are welcome to print the form and bring it along.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at 021-808 4854 / 2791 or pso@sun.ac.za

Kind regards,

PSO Office Centre for Student Communities | Sentrum vir Studentegemeenskappe

UNIVERSITEIT STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY
Tel: 021 808 2791 **Tel**: 021 808 4854 **E-pos | E-mail**: PSO@sun.ac.za **Kantoor | Office**: 11 Bosman Street, Stellenbosch

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PERMISSION: CHARGING COST OF WELCOMING PACKAGE TO 2019 STUDENT ACCOUNT

Please complete the following:

DETAILS OF STUDENT:

NAME AND SURNAME:

……

STUDENT NUMBER: ……

PSO: **Silene PSO**

CHOICE OF WELCOMING PACKAGE (MARK WITH AN X):

FULL PACKAGE (Clothing and Meal Package) COST: R800.00	**ONLY MEALS (10 MEALS) COST: R400.00**	**ONLY CLOTHING PACKAGE COST: R400.00**

Please note that the cost of welcoming packages, including the package containing only meals and certain items, differs from PSO to PSO.

By signing this form, you commit in writing to the following:

- I hereby grant permission that the cost of the welcoming package may be charged to my student account;
- I understand that acquiring the welcoming package is not compulsory;
- I understand that if I sign the form, I must pay the costs and I will not be able to be reimbursed[1].

SIGNATURE OF STUDENT:

……

SIGNATURE OF GUARDIAN:

……

DATE:

……

[1] Please take note that we usually do not reimburse students simply because they change their minds. However, if the goods are faulty or defective, have been described incorrectly, differ from the sample shown to you or do not function according to their purpose, you can choose between reimbursement, exchange, or repair of the goods.

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Desember 2018

Beste Student,

HEFFING VAN VERWELKOMINGSPAKKIE-KOSTES OP STUDENTEREKENING.
Welkom by die PSO-gemeenskap van die Stellenbosch Universiteit! Aangesien jy nie in ’n koshuis woonagtig is nie, is jy in ’n PSO (Privaat Studente Organisasie) ingedeel. Tydens die jaarlikse Verwelkomingsperiode neem koshuise en PSO’s verantwoordelikheid om die eerstejaars op ’n verwelkomende wyse aan Stellenbosch Universiteit bloot te stel.
Aangesien die PSO’s nie oor ’n eetsaal beskik waar studente maaltye kan geniet nie, (alhoewel daar reëlings getref word deur sommige PSO’s om etes in die oop eetsale te geniet), word daar vir die eerstejaars “verwelkomingspakkies” saamgestel. Dit bestaan gewoonlik uit ’n sekere aantal maaltye, klerasie, waterbottels, pette, en soortgelyke items wat eie is aan die betrokke PSO. Tydens registrasie by die PSO op die eerste dag van Verwelkoming (Woensdag, 23 Januarie 2019) het u die opsie om hierdie verwelkomingspakkies aan te skaf teen ’n vasgestelde bedrag (wat kan wissel van PSO tot PSO). Elke PSO bied ook verskillende opsies aan student (etes en klerasie / slegs etes / slegs klerasie).
Stellenbosch Universiteit maak gebruik van ’n kontantvrye sisteem wat studente in staat stel om die pakkies makliker te verkry. U, of u ouers of voog, gaan dus op die dag ’n erkenning van skuld moet teken sodat die klerasie, voedsel, ens vir die verwelkomingsperiode aan u beskikbaar gestel kan word. Na registrasie sal die koste dan teen die betrokke studenterekening gehef word vir betaling saam met alle ander studentverwante uitgawes. Neem asseblief kennis dat sodra u die vorm onderteken het, u aanspreeklik sal wees vir die koste van die verkose pakkie, ongeag of u al u etes geneem het en ongeag of u die klerasie nie meer wil hê of dra na die eerste paar dae nie.

Die verkryging van die “verwelkomingspakkies” is nie verpligtend nie, maar ons wil u tog aanmoedig om dit wel op te neem. Vind asseblief aangeheg die vorm vir u voltooiing. U is welkom om dit saam te bring volgende jaar.

Indien u enige vrae het, kontak ons gerus by 021-808 4854/2791 / pso@sun.ac.za

Vriendelike groete,

PSO Kantoor Centre for Student Communities | Sentrum vir Studentegemeenskappe

UNIVERSITEIT STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY

Tel: 021 808 2791 **Tel**: 021 808 4854 **E-pos | E-mail**:
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TOESTEMMING: HEFFING VAN VERWELKOMINGPAKKIE OP STUDENTEREKENING 2019

Voltooi asseblief die volgende:

BESONDERHEDE VAN STUDENT:

NAAM EN VAN: ……..

STUDENTENOMMER: ……

PSO: **Silene PSO**

KEUSE VAN VERWELKOMINGPAKKIE (MERK MET 'N X):

Volle pakkie (Klere- en kospakkie) KOSTE: R800.00	**SLEGS KOSPAKKIE (10 ETES) KOSTE: R400.00**	**SLEGS KLEREPAKKIE KOSTE: R400.00**

Let asseblief daarop dat die kostes van die verwelkomingpakkie, asook die pakkies wat slegs etes en enkele items bevat, wissel van PSO tot PSO.

Deur die ondertekening van die vorm, verbind u uself skriftelik tot die volgende:

- Hiermee verleen ek toestemming dat die koste van die verwelkomingpakkie teen my studenterekening gehef mag word;
- Ek verstaan dat ek nie verplig is om die verwelkomingpakkie aan te skafnie;
- Ek besef dat as ek die vorm teken, ek die kostes moet betaal en dat ek nie geldeterug sal kan ontvang nie[1].

HANDTEKENING VAN STUDENT:

……

HANDTEKENING VAN VOOG:

……

DATUM:

……

[1] Neem asseblief kennis dat ons gewoonlik geen terugbetalings doen net omdat u van plan verander het nie. Indien die goedere foutief of gebrekkig is, verkeerdelik beskryf is, verskil van die monster wat aan u getoon was of nie funksioneer volgens die doel daarvan nie, kan u kies tussen 'n terugbetaling, omruil, of herstel van die goedere.

Date and time	Activity: WHAT	Place and contact person	Explain the detail (HOW) of the activity. (Measured to your WHYs). Can any part of this activity possibly be interpreted as unfriendly, inhuman, or unwelcoming?
Wednesday	**23 January**		
10:00-11:00	Registration.	Engineering building.	
11:00-12:00	Parents welcoming.	Engineering building.	
12:00-12:30	Say goodbye to parents and go meet up with mentors.	Engineering grass.	
12:30-13:30	Mentor session.	Engineering grass.	Get to know your mentor.
13:30-14:00	Snacks and refreshments.	Engineering Grass.	
14:00-15:30	House activity.	Engineering Grass.	Get to know Silene. Who are we and what do we stand for? Learn the house song and get your Silene house. Meet our PSO coordinator, Lisinda.
15:30-17:00	Interaction: Pieke.	Engineering grass.	Meet some new people from a different community. See that you are not alone on this new and slightly scary journey.
17:15-19:00	Campus tour.	Start at Silene HK house and end at Harmonie.	Get familiar with campus and where you would need to go.
19:00	Dinner (everyone).	Harmonie.	
	End of programme.		
Thursday	**24 January**		
08:00-08:45	Welcome Silene.	Engineering Grass.	Learn the welcoming song.
08:45-09:00	Walk to Neelsie.		
09:00-10:30	Neelsie tour.	Neelsie.	Explore and get to know the Neelsie.
10:30-10:45	Walk back to HK house.		
10:45-12:30	House activities. Seniors activity.	HK house & Engineering grass.	Recycled Runway. Build bonds with the other members of your house and Silene itself.
12:30 – 15:00	Information session: Students with Special Learning Needs (Disabilities) (STB campus) Walk-in session during the period.	See Welcoming Booklet (January)	
12:30-13:30	Free time.	Engineering Grass.	
14:00 – 17:00	**Introduction of parents to faculties. (STB campus)** **Students excluded, except where indicated otherwise**	Venues, rooms and times of sessions per faculty are indicated in the welcoming booklet and complete January 2019 programme	
13:30-14:00	House activity.	Engineering grass.	Human bingo.

			Get to know your fellow Sileners better.
14:00-14:45	Redfrog session.	Engineering grass.	
14:45-16:00	Mentor session.	Engineering grass.	Party safety.
15:30 – 16:30	**Compulsory session** for AgriScience students: • with average percentage between 50% and 59% (final Grade 12 results) and/or • with average percentage between 50% and 59% for Mathematics and/or • who have been admitted conditionally to the Extended Degree Programme	JS Marais Building See Welcoming Booklet (January)	
16:00-17:30	Interaction: Oude Molen.	Engineering grass.	SOM Olympics. Meet people from a different community and build a bond with our brother PSO.
17:30-18:00	**Moving to Danie Craven Stadium in maroon Maties T-shirt**	No formats e.g no rows, etc.	Students can sit with parents
17:30 – 18:00 18:00 – 19:00	**Informal programme** at Danie Craven **Official welcoming** by the Rector		
19:00	End of programme.		
Friday	**25 January**		
08:00 – 12:00	**Academic Programme** (Faculty meetings, Library visits)	Venues, rooms and times of sessions per faculty are indicated in the complete January 2019 programme	
09:30-12:00	**Compulsory session for Arts and Social Sciences students with matric averages of between 60% and 64,9%** meet lecturers about the extended degree programme (EDP)	Arts and Social Sciences Building See Welcoming Booklet (January)	
08:00-08:15	Welcome Silene.	Engineering grass.	Sing welcoming song and house song.
08:15-08:30	Walk to Wilgenhof.		
08:30-10:30	Res Ed.	Wilgenhof.	Be aware of what's fair.
10:30-11:00	Walk to Harmonie/Monica.		Walk in mentor groups.
11:00-12:30	Interaction: Harmonie & Monica.	Harmonie/Monica.	Sustainability social. Build relationships with the members of our cluster.
12:30-13:30	Lunch.	Harmonie.	
14:00 – 16:00	**Registration** of B Occupational Therapy and B Speech, Language, and Hearing Therapy Students on the STB campus (those who could not register themselves)	Administration, Block A. See Welcoming Booklet (January)	

13:30-14:30	Mentor session.	Botanical gardens.	Socio-economic wellness.
14:45-16:45	Res Ed.	Harmonie.	Social media for good.
16:45-17:30	Snacks and refreshments.	Metanoia grass.	
17:30-17:40	Walk to Coetzenburg.		
17:40-18:20	Societies fair.		
18:20-19:00	Maties sport.		
	End of programme.		
Saturday	**26 January**		
08:00 – 08:15	Welcome Silene.	Engineering grass.	Sing welcoming song and house song
08:15-08:30	Maties Underwater Club.	Engineering grass.	
08:30 – 09:00	**Walk the TOP UP ROUTE**		
09:00 – 13:00	**CLUSTER DAY with Lunch.**	As indicated by clusters / see welcoming booklet	
13:00-13:15	Walk to engineering grass.		
13:15–14:00	House activity.		
14:00-15:00	Interaction: Hippokrates.	Engineering grass.	Get to know our connect partners. Learn more about what is Vensters. Why are we doing this?
15:00-17:00	Vensters practice.	Engineering grass.	
17:00-18:00	Mentor session.	Engineering grass	Feedback on cluster day.
18:00-20:00	Town tour: "Stellenbosch Survival 101".	Start at HK house and end at Spur.	Explore and get to know Stellenbosch. A guide and tips on how to survive.
	End of programme.		
Sunday	**27 January**		
08:00-09:30	Interaction: Helshoogte.	Breakfast in dining hall.	Get to know some more people from a different community.
09:30-10:00	Welcome Silene.	While walking to HK house.	Sing welcoming song and house song.
10:00-11:00	Mentor session.	HK house.	Academic wellness.
11:00-11:45	Interaction: Aristea.	Venue TBC.	Maties dance society.
11:45-12:30	Lunch with Aristea.		
12:30-12:45	Walk to Heemstede.		
12:45-13:30	Vensters practice.	Heemstede.	Only silene.
13:30-14:45	Vensters practice.	Heemstede.	Silene and Hippokrates.
14:45-15:00	Walk to Huis Marais.		
15:00-16:00	Interaction: Huis Marais.	Huis Marais grass.	Mine field.
16:00-16:30	Free time.		
16:30-16:45	Meet at HK house and walk to Breaking Barriers.		
16:45-18:45	Breaking Barriers.	Venue TBC	
18:45	Meet at HK house.		
19:00-	Pieke activity.		
Monday	**28 January**		
07:30	Meet at HK house and walk newcomers to academic programme.		
08:00 – 12:30	**Academic Programme**	Venues, rooms and times of sessions per faculty are	No Res/PSO activities during this time.

	(Registration, RGA-registration, Faculty meetings, Library visits)	indicated in the complete January 2017 programme	
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch (food packages) with Minerva.	Meet on Rooiplein.	Time to relax between academic sessions and mingle with another community.
13:30 – 17:00	**Academic Programme** (Registration, RGA-registration, Faculty meetings, Library visits)	Venues, rooms and times of sessions per faculty are indicated in the complete January 2017 programme	No Res/PSO activities during this time.
17:15-19:00	Dinner with Wilgenhof.	Dinner at Wilgenhof.	Build relationship with community in our cluster and unwind after the academic programme.
	End of programme.		
Tuesday	**29 January**		
07:30	Meet at HK house and walk newcomers to Academic Programme.		
08:00 – 12:30	**Academic Programme** (Registration, RGA-registration, Faculty meetings, Library visits)	Venues, rooms and times of sessions per faculty are indicated in the complete January 2019 programme	No Res/PSO activities during this time.
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch (food packages). SAVE.	Eng grass/ Neelsie grass	SAVE is an initiative started and driven by the four female PSO's (Silene, Aristea, Venustia and Equité) to bring awareness to issues that all students face on campus.
13:30 – 17:00	**Academic Programme** (RGA-registration, Faculty meetings, Library visits)	Venues, rooms and times of sessions per faculty are indicated in the complete January 2019 programme	No Res/PSO activities during this time.
17:00 –18:00	Mentor session.	Neelsie grass.	Feedback on academic programme. Balloon icebreaker.
18:00-18:15	Walk to Simonsberg.		
18:15-19:15	Dinner with Simonsberg.	Simonsberg.	Make own wraps for dinner together. Chance to meet new people and wind down after academic programme.
	End of programme.		
Wednesday	**30 January**		
07:30 – 08:00	HIIT fit with Monica.		Focus on physical wellness and building relationships with a community in our cluster.
08:00 – 12:30	**Academic Program** (RGA-Registration, Faculty meetings, Library visits)	Venues, rooms and times of sessions per faculty are indicated in the complete January 2019 programme	Mentors
08:15-09:00	Time to shower and change for newcomers who did HIIT fit. Welcome Silene.	Office (for those who need place to shower). Engineering grass.	Sing welcoming song and house song.
09:00-10:00	Mentor session.	Engineering grass	Physical wellness.
10:00-12:00	Interaction: Metanoia.	Engineering grass.	Meet and get to know a community that is different to ours.
12:00-13:00	Lunch (food packages).	HK House.	
13:00-15:00	Vensters practice.	Engineering grass.	Only Silene.

15:00-16:00	Free time.		
16:00-18:00	Res Ed	Monica.	Say something.
18:00-19:00	Mentor session.		Res ed debrief.
	End of programme.		
Thursday	**31 January**		
08:00 – 08:30	Welcome Silene.		Sing welcoming song and house song.
08:30 – 09:00	Walk.		
09:00 – 12:00	**Community interaction morning** (first-years, second-years, HC, mentors and staff) with Vesta.	A.F Louw.	Experience the different people we have in the Stellenbosch community.
12:15 – 13:15	Bus to Tygerberg. Lunch (food packages).		
13:15-14:15	Interaction: Osler.		30 seconds. Meet people from Tygerberg.
14:15-17:15	Vensters practice.		
17:30-18:30	Bus back to Stellenbosch.		
18:45-19:30	Dinner and mentor session.	Harmonie.	Sustainability session.
	End of programme.		
Friday	**1 February**		
08:00-08:30	Welcome Silene.		Sing welcoming song and house song.
08:30 – 10:45	Vensters practice.	Engineering grass.	
10:45-11:00	Walk to Olympus interaction.		
11:00-12:30	Interaction: Olympus.		Self-defense class.
12:30-12:45	Walk to Heemstede.		
12:45-14:00	Vensters practice.	Heemstede.	
14:00-15:00	Lunch (food packages) and mentor session.	Heemstede.	Hype up for Vensters.
15:00-16:00	Vensters practice.	Heemstede.	
16:00-17:30	Shower and get ready for Vensters.		
17:30-18:30	Dinner (food packages). Makeup and costumes for Vensters.	At Vensters venue.	
18:30	Vensters.		
Saturday	**2 February**		
11:00-14:00	Welcome Silene brunch. (Newcomers, seniors that are here, leadership)	Katjiepiering.	Spend the morning with Silene and get to know the rest of the house, a chance to relax before classes start on Monday.
	Complete Welcoming survey		
	Cleaning up		
Sunday	**3 February**		
	REST Preparation for first day of classes		

Monday	**4 February**		
	General commencement of classes for all students (newcomer first-year students and seniors) **All mentors wear a specific distinctive mark (e.g. Cluster sticker on the cheek) as a sign that any first-year student can ask them where a class or building is.**		