



Update on Adél Cato



You should recall from our previous newsletter that we shared the story of Adél Cato who was hit by a car in July and in a coma for over 2 months. We are happy to report that Adél has made incredible progress due to hard work, weekly therapy sessions and the support of her loved ones. She is determined to return to the University of Pretoria to continue her studies as soon as possible, but she remains patient as she vests her trust in God's perfect timing. Her recovery can still take a few years.

This humble "Magrietjie of the Year 2018" inspires and motivates everyone around her even though she is going through a very difficult time herself.

The amount of support that she received from family, friends and even strangers still amazes her. She would really like to thank everyone for their contributions and prayers.

## Mags welcomes the new Vice-Chancellor and Principal

Professor Tawana Kupe is the new Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of Pretoria and took office in January 2019. The Mags House Committee welcomed Prof Kupe to the University in true pink style by handing him 12 pink balloons during a visit to his office. We wish him the best of luck with all of his new responsibilities.



## A new era has dawned

"Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much" - Helen Keller.

It is within the echoes of these words that the residence welcomes a new team of leaders. A team of passionate, young women who have from the outset displayed determination and dedication towards the residence. These risk takers do not shy away from the new and necessary. Within the short space which they have been a-part of the House Committee, they have consistently applied the best of themselves in every situation that they are faced with, no matter how big or small. Hand-picked by the house, they have shown to be diverse, highly capable, adaptable and very importantly to have a ground level understanding of the needs of the ladies in the residence whilst still living true to the legacy created by their fellow Mags sisters.

The team is comprised of myself, Palesa Serumula as well as Dimakatso Molepo, Tanna Brownlee, Nonhlanhla Pongwana, Sané Louw, Kemisetso Phakathi, Cecile Kruger, Leshan Tollman, Lemé du Toit, Jeannette Auret, Kopano Bookholane and Chanté Horn. Together, our goal for the upcoming year is to mould this residence into a space which is conducive to the personal growth of each lady within this residence. Through applying our creative freedom, the 2019 HC seek to unleash each Mags lady's full potential and further equip them with the necessary skills which they will find to be helpful once they leave the residence scene. The 2019 team can be distinguished as being a team that looks ahead - focuses on the bigger picture and not simply on what's directly in front of them.



I wish to take this opportunity to thank our alumni for their contribution over the past 37 years. For those of you who are saddened by our recent name change, I urge you to stay loyal to this special pink palace, as you will find that our blood is as pink as ever. We need your continued support to ensure that the special character Magrietjie was known for up to now, remains in House Mags - and will for many decades to come.

It is an honour to be able to lead such a strong team and I have full confidence that not only will this team meet the expectations of the house, but they will far surpass them.

*Palesa Serumula*



## 1nSync 2019

Our 1nSync theme for 2019 was “Mags Synchronised Swimmers.” Not only were our Spikkels training for the 1nSync performance during welcome week, but also for the ‘2020 Olympics in Tokyo’. Dressed in pink with a swimming cap, they made a statement during their performances. The band was sailing through their chords and the dancers mesmerized the audience with their water-like movements, going under water where they had to “hold their breath” or simply enjoying it in the bath with a little “splish splash”. Ending off their performance with the world’s confidence singing “All I do is win”. The Spikkels, House Committee, House parents and every Mags lady knew... We are taking the cup home! Walking away with Ladies Best Theme, Ladies First Place and most importantly a Spikkel group that is proud of what they achieved - Mags was off to a great 2019! Nothing could beat the feeling - fearless for all that 2019 has in store!

*Sané Louw (HK Culture External)*



## Orientation week

On Saturday 26 January the new Spikkels entered House Mags with hopeful, excited hearts. The House Committee assisted by handing out res clothing items, room keys, signing up for sport and handing in items for community engagement projects.

Once settled, the Welcome week programme started with teaching our Spikkels the House Song, our 6 all-inclusive values and our proud traditions, such as the Huppel and Pink Sparkle (knikkel en skitter).

Although the first few days felt like an overload of information our Spikkels never stopped smiling and one could see that it wouldn't be very difficult to instill Pink Passion in them.

With our goal for the year being growth, the House Committee challenged every single activity we engaged in with the question: How will this activity ensure that the Spikkels grow?

Welcome week was filled with fun activities from volleyball, slip 'n slide, socials with both male and female residences, internal socials, corridor sessions, 1nSync practices, orientation towards residence life and of course, academic orientation!

After a lot of hard work and dedication, our Spikkels brought home the 1n Sync trophy.

As Welcome week came to an end the HK hosted a special internal social where the Spikkels could meet their fellow semi and senior sisters for the first time. What a fantastic way to end off a week that the Spikkels will remember forever!

After having the opportunity to get to know the Spikkels I can in all honesty say that the nervous huppeling Spikkels of Welcome week have definitely transformed into beautiful Mags ladies.

*Cecile Kruger (First Year Guardian)*



## Mixed Valentines netball

The annual mixed Valentines netball is a fun Sport social for the Spikkels and Semis/Seniors of the House to enjoy along with a men's residence. This year we collaborated with House Mopane and performed very well. Our Spikkels ended overall third in the tournament and the Semis/Seniors won all of their matches. Valentines netball is an ideal event to connect and have fun as a House.

*Jeannette Auret (Sport HK)*



## Mags Champagne Breakfast

House Mags implemented 'sister week' a few years ago. During sister week the first years choose a senior lady in the residence to guide and mentor them throughout the year. The purpose is for the ladies to get to know each other on a more personal level. This year the launch of sister week ended off with a champagne breakfast. Through this event, the ladies were granted the opportunity to celebrate their sisterhood with delicious food and champagne. Some enjoyable games were played throughout the morning such as Mags Bingo where hilarious ice breaker questions were asked. Everyone who attended took home a small cactus as a gift in order to remember the special morning. It's just like they say: "Anything is possible with a little lipstick and champagne."

*Tanna Brownlee*

**Did you know?**

The 2019 Spikkels have the following connections with ex-Magrietjies:

- 5 Moms
- 6 Sisters
- 2 Cousins
- 3 Aunts

Thanks to those who send your loved ones to become part of the pink family!

**2019 RAG projects**

In the upcoming 6 months we aim to embark on numerous RAG projects, one of which is already underway. We really hope to touch the lives of the less fortunate. For our long-term project, we will refurbish the library at the Prinshof School for the visually impaired. We have already begun with our Pad Drive in conjunction with our RAG partners (Madelief) as well as House Nala and House Mopane. The Pad Drive aims to assist students in the greater Tshwane area, and we will collaborate further to hold holistic learning sessions with these students. In the following semester we will also run a clothing and blanket drive. We are truly looking forward to changing the lives of the less fortunate and making a difference. Please make contact if you can or want to assist in any way.

**Semi-welcome**

Semi-welcome is an annual House Mags event where we welcome the second years of that respective year. The purpose of this event is to reconnect, reminisce and to also set the tone for the year. This year the event consisted of ice-breaker activities, a word of welcome from the second-year guardian and a welcome address from the house parents. After enjoying snacks, the semis used the time to plan their activities for the year, ending their welcome event with a mass huppel. Go Semis!!!!

Editor: Lemé du Toit

**Ex-Magrietjies now proud Spikkel moms**

It is so special when the daughter of an ex-Magrietjie lady decides to become a Spikkel and live in the Pink Palace. It warms our hearts knowing that, not only did they trust us to take care of them, but to now take care of their daughters as well. We welcomed several Spikkels into the Pink Palace this year whose moms wore their Magrietjie colours with pride a number of years ago. Here are some of their stories.

Corlia van Heerden (previously known as Corlia Botha), mom to Spikkel Mieke van Heerden, lived in Magrietjie in 1986 and 1987. She studied BProc LLB and is currently a professor in Banking Law at the University of Pretoria. She says that it's wonderful that her daughter now also has the opportunity to spend her varsity years with such an extraordinary group of girls in such a precious residence. Spikkel Mieke is currently studying BCom Marketing Management. Some of mom Corlia's favourite memories include participating in the first year concert, JOOL, studying and going on ice-cream outings with the entire Spikkel group. Coming from a very small town, Prof van Heerden says that Magrietjie made it possible for her to get to know new people and to get involved in campus activities. When asked if she can still "huppel", her answer is, "Of course!" "If I did not stay in this residence, my varsity days would not have been nearly that exciting!"



Leona Morgan (Steele in her varsity days) was also a Magrietjie lady. She lived in Magrietjie from 1988-1990. During this time, she was a Psychology student and is currently working as a Clinical Psychologist. Her daughter, Spikkel Kayla Morgan, is studying Chemical Engineering at the University of Pretoria. Mom Leona says that it is wonderful to see how much Spikkel Kayla enjoys being in Magrietjie (or Mags lady). According to her it is déjà vu at its best and she cannot believe that the time went by so fast. She can still remember the "melkkos" and pies they ate over the weekends and the Grietjie letters in their mailboxes. She also reminisces about standing in the telephone queue in order to call back home. "My three years in Magrietjie were the most fun and carefree years of my life and I am so happy that Kayla gets to enjoy it now as well."

**From our Treasure Chest...**

We share some of the feedback from our alumni on our recent name change. It is understandable that most will feel a sense of loss for something they hold so dearly. Thank you for your honesty in sharing.

'Alumnus EK' wrote: "RIP liefste Magrietjie." 

'Alumnus AP' wrote (translated): Thank you for the privilege of always receiving the newsletter. I can, however, not help to complain about the new weird name of our residence. It makes me think about car tyres. Rather choose an indigenous name if you want to change. This new name doesn't sound dainty and feminine like Magrietjie. In fact, it does not encapsulate the character of Magrietjie. No thanks to car tyres...

If you have any news to share, contact us at [mags@up.ac.za](mailto:mags@up.ac.za)

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