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May 2021  
Volume 33



The next issue of **GrietGriet** will be published in October 2021.

## WE ARE BACK!

After months of having no ladies running around in res, no activities and no floods of pink in sight, House Mags reopened its doors to welcome her ladies back home.

The Covid-19 Pandemic has shaken the world and with that we have had to adjust to a new normal. Whilst taking the necessary safety precautions of wearing masks, sanitizing regularly and daily screening - every Mags lady was ecstatic to hear that we were returning to res.

Although our university experience is different from the norm and changing more often than not, we are making the best of the situation. With online classes underway and no sharing of double rooms, we are still making our time in House Mags count.

With the support of TuksRes, the house parents and the HC, we will adjust accordingly to ensure the safety of the ladies in the residence.

## WE RISE BY LIFTING OTHERS

At the end of a difficult 2020, a highlight for all Mags ladies was the announcement of the new House Mags House Committee for 2021. Owing to the new Covid regulations, the election process was virtual, but the team was able to get together over a weekend for the annual HC internal camp in order to prepare for a new term.

The House Committee of 2021 consists of an incredibly strong and dynamic group of eager Mags ladies, with the intention to lift House Mags to her greatest heights. At the internal camp, the committee members focused on goal setting for the year, and discussing the most important values that would guide us while serving in the upcoming term. Along with some internal bonding and team building, the HC enjoyed some quality time in nature, accompanied by delicious home cooked meals provided by our special House Parents.

The House Committee theme for the year is "Lift As We Rise." Within the walls of House Mags, we aim to show ourselves why as women, we are so incredibly significant and have the power to create our own roles in the world, by supporting those around us. Under my leadership as Primaria, we will leave nobody behind in House Mags. The committee aims to facilitate building strong connections and self-growth within the residence, whilst having the best time doing it. House Mags is a safe space, which nurtures young ladies into being the best they can be. With the support of the committee members, we aim to cultivate a home that embraces uniqueness, support systems and houses ladies who realise that your differences and your passion are what drive your success.

"You become strong by lifting others up, not pulling them down. The most beautiful people are those who bring out the beauty in others."

*Mufaro Sambaza (Primaria)*



## JUST SPIKTACULAR

When the new Spikkels completed their very first Huppel, the House Committee knew that this was one very special group. Filled with pink passion from the very beginning, our Spiks embarked on the rollercoaster ride that is Welcome Week.

Although this year looked a bit different, our Spikkels embraced every opportunity and new situation with open arms. Their excitement to socialise with each other (and the men's residences of course) was clear to see. Once a social was announced, an immediate buzz of excitement would fill the Rec Hall. They enjoyed learning the greetings and left the men's jaws on the floor when performing 'I Wonder'. Their love for each other and for our beautiful residence was instantaneous. The Spikkels amazed us with their enthusiasm and zest for life, and yes, they managed to bring the House Committee to tears when found all sitting and singing together. There was never a dull moment with this amazing group of Spiks. From eating all meals on the front lawn, to running around the residence finding the next clue in hopes to win the treasure hunt, to giggling about a crazy idea for an outfit for that evening's social, the Spikkels never ceased to amaze and entertain. No activity was too small, the Spiks always managed to give their all to everything they did.

On the final night of Welcome Week, in a very special ceremony, the Spikkels released their handmade origami butterflies. As these butterflies took flight and MAVAVM echoed all around, no greater sense of belonging and sisterhood could be found. The House Committee was ecstatic and honoured to embrace and serve the newest members of the Mags family, and we cannot wait to see the heights that the 2021 Spikkels will take Mags.

*Kaylin Neuhoff (First Year Guardian HC)*



## MAGSYNC 2021

Starting off with practices in Welcome Week, the vibrant superheroine-spikkels trained to save the Cubs of House Tirisano. They took us on their journey through treacherous oceans and scorching deserts to pull off a spectacular performance for our seniors one evening. This internal MagSync was a small taster of what it would have been like under normal conditions and was an opportunity for all of the Spiks to get

involved in dancing and singing together. Simultaneously, the Beg1nners event was at hand where the Spikkels showcased an array of diverse talents ranging from baking to gum boot dancing. Our spikkels really highlighted the true essence of their sisterhood and uniqueness. A massive congratulations to all our beautifully pink Spiks who represented the Res in these two events.

*Tyla van Niekerk (Culture External HC)*



## A "TIRIMAGS" PARTNERSHIP

The Blad preparations were well underway as the Spikkels were welcomed by our beautifully painted pink and yellow blad. The design for the blad this year is to have MaerGrietjie sit in the middle of the blad (with a mask on of course), with a bunch of flowers surrounding her legs as Oats, the House Tirisano (previously known as Kiaat) tiger mascot, walks towards her to lay more flowers by her feet. This represents both House Mags and House Tirisano to unite our RAG partnership. The Spikkels also made their mark on the blad as they added in their handprints. This was a fun activity during the academic orientation week and also provided the Spikkels with a little study break. The Big YES was also a huge success with much excitement. This was our way as House Mags of officially accepting the RAG partnership and this event took place on our front lawn with House Tirisano. The Chairperson of House Tirisano proposed to our Primaria and we officially said 'Yes' by spelling it out with the lights in our building. We are so excited about our Tirimag's partnership and look forward to more RAG events to take place throughout the year!

*Paballo Mothibe (Community Engagement & Administration HC)*



## Did you know?

The 2021 Spikkels have the following connections with ex-Magrietjies:

- 5 Moms
- 5 Sisters
- 2 Aunts

Thank you for sending your loved ones to become part of our Pink Family!

## FROM OUR TREASURE CHEST...

Dalree Delange (2017 Primaria) writes: *"I love what the HK is wearing and the participation [during Welcome Week]. This makes me very happy! Pink love always!"*

*Ed: Thank you for the lovely message. Sending lots of pink love!*

One of the mothers shared a message to thank us for an excellent MagSync and that she is extremely proud of what the HC has achieved with their daughters.

*Ed: Thank you Mrs Potgieter, we appreciate your kind words. The HC has enjoyed every moment with the Spikkels thus far.*



This issue of GrietGriet was compiled by the editor, Lauren Gangiah.

Please join our Facebook group House Mags and also follow us on Instagram @housemags. If you have any news to share, contact us at [housemags@up.ac.za](mailto:housemags@up.ac.za). We are looking forward to hearing from you!

## PROUD SPIKKEL-MOMS

We welcomed several Spikkels into the Pink Palace this year whose mothers were Magrietjie ladies a number of years ago. It is so special to welcome back alumni and to know that they trust us with the wellbeing and care of their daughters.

Riette Bester (née Gerrys), mom to Spikkel Leani Bester, lived in Magrietjie from 1990-1994. During this time she studied BDietetics, whilst her daughter is currently studying BPhysiotherapy. Mom Riette says that it was a blessing and a privilege to move Spikkel Leani into res and to see our beautiful Pink Palace after so many years. Some of her favourite memories from her time in Magrietjie include the 'huppel' on the blad (she definitely still knows how to 'huppel'), tanning on the roof and the hammock in floor 5 flat 5. Mom Riette says that she hopes for Spikkel Leani to build friendships that will last for many years, as she still keeps in contact with her Magrietjie friends and meets with them for their annual reunion every October.



*Photo (left to right): Spikkel Leani, Mom Riette, Grandmother Susan*

Amandalee De Wet, mom to Spikkel Annette De Wet, lived in Magrietjie for 4 years from 1982-1985, whilst studying for her BLC and LLB degrees graduating in 1986. She is currently an advocate and has a practice as such for the past 26 years. Her daughter, Spikkel Annette is currently studying BSc Actuarial and Financial Mathematics. Mom Amandalee says that it brought back so many fond and happy memories walking into House Mags again after so many years with her daughter. Some of her favourite memories and activities that stand out the most include when the Spikkels had to do "voordeurdiens" which entailed sitting in reception and announcing visitors over the intercom to the ladies in their rooms. "Believe it, there was a time with no cell phones!" She recalls that there was no choice of meals in the dining hall, but that they were more than happy to eat what the "kombuis tannies" had prepared. She remembers that during exams they were treated to late night snacks, which was often freshly baked cake or biscuits. Another fond memory of hers is being raided by the men's residences. She says on one occasion the men from Kollege stormed into Magrietjie, flooding the floors with small polystyrene balls and water from the fire hoses. Mom Amandalee is proud that Spikkel Annette has also been afforded the opportunity to live in House Mags, be a Spikkel, as she was and to 'huppel'. "I can most certainly remember how to 'huppel'!"

She hopes that Spikkel Annette and all the Spikkels of 2021 enjoy their first steps into adulthood in House Mags, under the guidance of the HK and the house parents. She hopes they experience the joy of friendship, being young and to truly appreciate the privilege of studying. "As humans we need to change but also find value in consistency and tradition. It is encouraging to see that Magrietjie grew up and now stands proud as House Mags. I am proud of the traditions of which I was part, such as the huppel across the 'aanloopbaan' which is still practiced. It is heart-warming to see that Maer-Grietjie has not aged in the past 39 years and remains as a symbol of femininity, balance, beauty and strength of the ladies in House Mags."

*Photo: Mom Amandalee and daughter Annette*

