

DAGBREEK

MANSKOSHUIS | MEN'S RESIDENCE



THE EIFFEL

FIRST YEAR EDITION

ETHOS

Dagbreek is the **House of Renown and Fame** with a proud and prestigious history.

In Dagbreek we produce role models for the future to serve the Republic of South Africa on all terrains. Dagbrekers strive towards service to their fellow citizens and their fellow Dagbrekers. We aim to look after unity, tradition, and South-African culture; without excluding any opinions or beliefs. The strength of Dagbreek, with its unique character, lies in its diversity as it creates endless opportunities for every individual.

Dagbreek's objective as men's residence is to strive towards excellence with self discipline and a sense of responsibility towards:

- academics,
- culture,
- sport,
- citizenship, and
- leadership

Dagbreek is a sense of belonging that is woven like a golden thread through the lives of every current and former resident, who aims to live with the following lifestyle:

- The outright acknowledgment of a mutual respect and interest towards his fellow man;
- The forging of friendships and establishing timeless camaraderie;
- Gentlemanship towards all;
- A unique jealousy of that what is our own to ensure an ongoing existence of our mystery;
- The protection and preservation of our House at all costs.

As Dagbrekers we are convinced that if we strive towards this ethos it will lead to the forming and establishing of values and traditions that all Dagbrekers will be proud of, now and in times to come, just as it was for the last century.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRIMARIUS



Dear future Dagbreker,

First, I want to warmly welcome you to the best men's residence in the world! Dagbreek is not only the largest, but also the most sought-after residence at Stellenbosch, receiving by far the most applications every year.

To say that I'm jealous of each and every person reading this letter would be an understatement. The world that is about to open up to you over the next few years is bigger and better than your very best and wildest dreams. The experiences you will gain and the growth you will undergo will be unlike anything you've known, and you'll look back at the person who first walked in here and realise you've become better in almost every meaningful way. But all this growth and experience can only happen if you commit to it and go out and grab every opportunity you possibly can.

On a campus of roughly 30 000 students, you are one of the lucky 382 who get to call Dagbreek your home. And that is exactly what I want to encourage you to do: make Dagbreek your home and refuge. No matter where in the world you are from, for at least the next year, you'll spend more time in Dagbreek than anywhere else on earth. So I urge you not just to coast through the days and wait for the next one to arrive.

I'm sure it took hard work and perseverance to get to this point. For that, I offer you a proverbial firm handshake and a pat on the shoulder. But this is not the finish line. Dagbreek will ask a lot of you, and you will be tested, but I can guarantee without hesitation that Dagbreek will always give you back more than you put in. Dagbreek is an investment, and its dividends pay out in a wealth that money cannot buy.

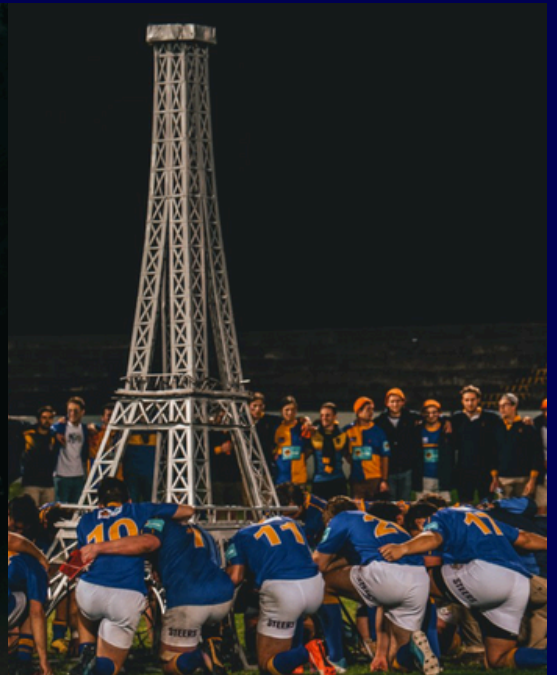
I want to encourage you to live your life to the fullest over the next few years. Play rugby, soccer, tennis, squash, hockey, golf, table tennis, frisbee and padel, or sing in the choir and make music. Climb mountains, spearfish, have a beer, surf, and go ask that girl for a date. The only limits you have from now on are the ones you set for yourself. You have a golden opportunity to get to know yourself and many other people so much better and it would be a shame not to make the most of it.

The House Committee of 2026 truly looks forward to meeting you and taking on some of the most exciting years of your life together! It won't always be easy, and to be honest, at times it will be DAWNERS tough, but your fellow Dagbrekers will always be there to support you—and you for them.

So, until we see each other, I advise you to rest, sleep a lot, enjoy your parents' cooking one last time, and arrive here with ambition, excitement and eagerness!

Warm regards,

Ignatius Willem van Deventer





The History of Dagbreek

The “Huis van Roem en Faam” has developed into a world of its own over a period of 104 years. When you enter the front door and move through the foyer you will see the large Quad. This forms the centre of Dagbreek’s activities and existence. The first thing you will notice is the well-known symbol which stands in the middle of the Quad:

The Eiffel

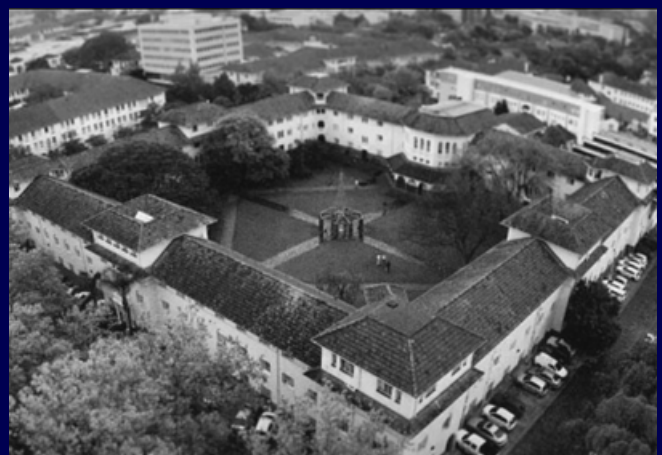
All over Dagbreek is associated with the Eiffel and the Eiffel with Dagbreek. It is our official symbol and forms part of our House emblem. This symbol also serves as the name of the House’s official publications (The Eiffel), the third rugby side (The Eiffels) and our highly acclaimed choir group (The Eiffel choir).

The Eiffel had meaning for the “Huis van Roem en Faam” long before the 70’s. The original Eiffel was built by Koos du Pisani as a part of the float procession of 1954.

This presentation of the French Department was judged as the best entry. After the procession the Eiffel received an honorary place in the centre of the Quad.

In 1958, under the guidance of Willie Esterhuyse, then Primarius, the model was replaced with a replica. The previous Eiffel was built in 1962 by Roelf Hollenbach and Jan du Preez. In 2004, after years of service on the Quad and in our hearts, a new Eiffel (designed and built by Fanie and Abie Nel) was constructed to celebrate the original eiffel’s 50th anniversary.

On the emblem of Dagbreek the Eiffel stands in front of a rising sun. The sun is not only symbolic of Dagbreek’s name, but as a symbol of light it is a sign of hope and trust Dabrekers have in each other and in others.



The House

The residence is built in the form of a square and consists of 17 occupied sections. Sections 1 to 7 make up the Senior House where students stay from their third year. The Junior House consists of Section 8 to 18 (Section 16 is the current dining hall).

The first and second years stay in double rooms in the Junior house. Dagbreek differs from other residences, because it is built with different sections consisting of four rooms and a bathroom for each floor. This style of building resulted in every section having their own unique character and traditions. The competition between sections is a characteristic of the House's daily activities.

Wynand Louw is the architect of Dagbreek. Building started in 1920 and was completed in 1921, but the residence only consisted of Section 1 to 7. The residents and students of Stellenbosch were astonished by the sheer size of the three story building. JD Conradie was the very first occupant and in the first year of the House's existence there were only 27 residents. Initially every resident had to prepare his own food.

This system did not work very well and in 1925 they began building Section 8 to 18. The new sections included a dining hall and a recreation hall.



The construction of the dining hall in August 1927

This hall, Visholpark, was named after two previous residents, Visser and Hollenbach, who constructed the badminton court. Some other areas include those of the House Committee room, prayer room, washing room, post room, Dagbreek Club and the Archive. For the fitness fanatics there is also a well equipped gymnasium.

More than just Academics...

The residents of Dagbreek are given various opportunities to develop themselves in diverse fields. Team sports are very popular among Dagbreekers where both the rugby and hockey teams won their leagues in 2018 respectively. The first water polo, chess and table tennis team triumphed as champions in 2019. In 2022, 2023 and 2024 the Dagbreek Eiffel Choir won the University of Stellenbosch's Acapella competition (Ser). The first team hockey won the Hauer (the hockey league) in 2022. Dagbreek also won the U/20 rugby tournament in 2023. There are also various committees, which focuses on a wide range of activities, that are in place to ensure that there is an opportunity for each individual to express himself.



From the Archive

"The year is 1918. The Victoria College's status has just been increased to that of a university and was from then on known as the University of Stellenbosch. An acute housing shortage was quickly identified as prospective students from all over the South Africa came rushing to Stellenbosch for higher academic teaching. In 1920 the building process of the first seven sections of Dagbreek started which if viewed from above would have looked like the shape of the letter L, known to students as 'The New Residence' (Die Nuwe Koshuis). Students started moving into the residence even before the construction of the building had finished at the end of 1921.



Aerial Photo of Dagbreek in the 1900's

Initially the university did not provide any food; and catering services, as we know them today, were few and far between. The first residents had to cook and provide every single meal for themselves. They received the nickname 'the starving men' (die hongerly). A representation of these challenging times can be seen in the form of pots and pans on the first Dagbreek Shield. Before long, the first 27 residents of 'The New Residence' under the leadership of the first primarius, Eben Greyling, decided on Dagbreek as the new name for the residence. It was symbolic of the new day or new period issued in, in the history of the University of Stellenbosch as Dagbreek was the first modern residence in Stellenbosch. Some might then ask where the double designation of The John Murray House and Dagbreek comes from.

The university was adamant on naming it after John Murray. Born in Graaff-Reinet, John Murray moved with his family at age 12 to Aberdeen, Scotland. In 1845 he and his brother travelled to the Netherlands to further their studies in theology. On arrival in South Africa in 1849 they quickly became well known for their biblical work in communities across South Africa.



The Evolution of the Dagbreek Shield

In 1859 John Murray opened the theological seminary (kweekskool) at the University of Stellenbosch and devoted 24 years of his life to serving the institution. John Murray furthermore played influential roles in the infant years of both Paul Roos Gymnasium and Bloemhof Hoërskool located in Stellenbosch.

This left the residents of Dagbreek with a dilemma as the university would not budge on the new name. For seven years the residents of Dagbreek were persistent in their efforts and soon after they settled on the double designation, both with extra-ordinary meaning and value.

Over the last century however the four walls of Dagbreek served its purpose as onslaughts from several campus residences and even Ikeys's (University of Cape Town) residences came close to intimidating our residents, all of course in great university student spirit.

The history of Dagbreek is filled with tradition and memorable events. This should serve as a quick introduction to what many consider their favourite home. Dagbreek's silent renown lies in the achievements still to be accomplished as our intrinsic values drive us to lead with passion and integrity in order to produce well educated members of society that contribute to the improvement of South Africa."



Dagbreek Archive

Former Residents

During the past 102 years many Dagbrekers had great influence in South Africa and became world renowned in their field.

One of the most renown Old-Dagbrekers is the deceased Oom Koos Meyer who entertained many people with stories from his student life.

Dagbreek also delivered many Springbok rugby players such as Dawie Snyman (player and later coach), Jan Boland Coetzee, Kobus Burger, Faffa Knoetze, Colin Beck, Louis Koen, Kat Myburgh, Gaffie du Toit, Gio Aplon and Charl McCleod.

Other exceptional sportsmen include Tony Leon (Springbok-gymnast), Danie Malan (previous record holder in the 800m and 1500m) and De Villiers Lampbrecht (the first SA athlete to run the dream mile).

Dagbreek has delivered more than just sport stars. Various writers and famous singers lived in Dagbreek. WA de Klerk, FA Venter, Ettienne le Roux, Uys Krige and Ernest van Heerden (all acclaimed writers) and Bun Booyens (renowned academic).

In the business sector, Dagbreek boasts various entrepreneurs and leaders. For example, Louw Barnardt, who was named the 2018 Sanlam Emerging Business Entrepreneur of the Year.

Great emphasis is placed on tradition and so it is no surprise that several generations of families return to Dagbreek and choose this residence as their home.

Another famous Old-Dagbreker is the late Bethuel Sibuta who worked as part of the kitchen staff for 47 years and lived here with many legends of his time. It is for this very reason that the dining hall is named after Bethuel himself, in order to celebrate his life and his contributions to the residence.

Sport and Culture



Dagbreek offers the following:

Football, Rugby, Hockey, Cricket, Tennis, Waterpolo, Golf, Athletics, Ultimate Frisbee, Tabletennis, Squash, Swimming, Chess, Eiffelchoir, Molassesêr, Drama, Debating, Basketball

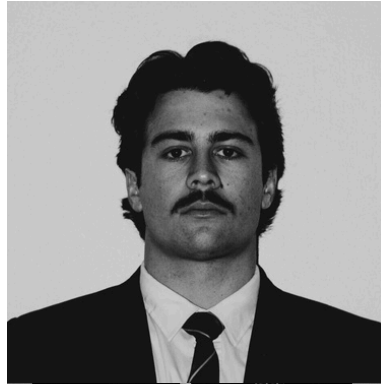


Bethuel Sibuta Dining Hall

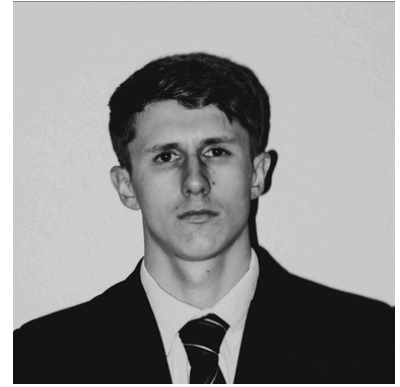
HOUSE COMMITTEE 2026



Ignus van Deventer
Primarius
Section 6
Constitution
BAcc LLB IV
Kimberley



Niel Slabbert
Onder Primarius
Section 6
Welcoming, Bloubakkie, 1ste & 2nd
Years, IBN, Safety, Discipline
BEng Mecahtronics IV
Cradock



Thomas Theron
Section 1
Spiritual, Sport II
BEng Chemical III
Riebeek Kasteel



Braam Greeff
Section 2
Secretary
Culture
Cape Town



Luca Bedeker
Section 3
Social Impact, Relevansie
BAcc PgD
Pretoria



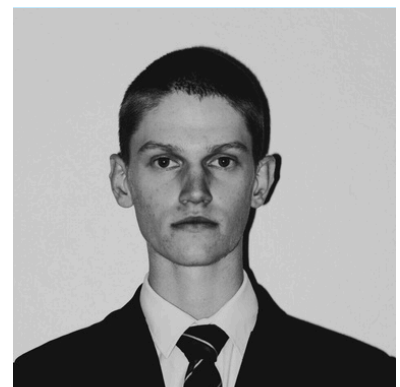
Franko van Wyk
Section 4
Dr. De Wet Strauss Klub,
Mentors
BEng Mechatronics IV
Durbanville



Ruben Odendaal
Section 5
Website en Multimedia,
Elite Events, Student affairs
BEng Industrial III
Durbanville

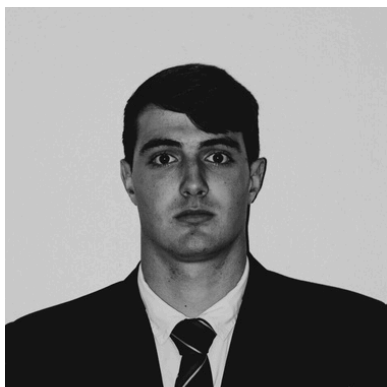


Chanre Botha
Section 7
Treasurer, Sound
BCom ActSci Hons
Paarl

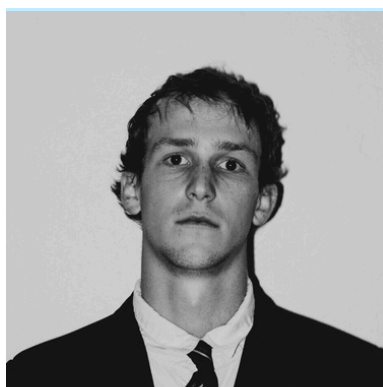


Dannhauser Van Der Merwe
Section 8
Merchandise, Huisdinee,
Honorary Awards
BEng Data III
Settlers

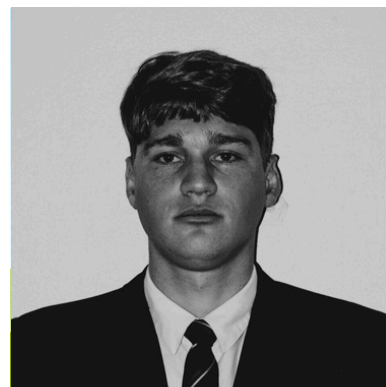
HOUSE COMMITTEE 2026



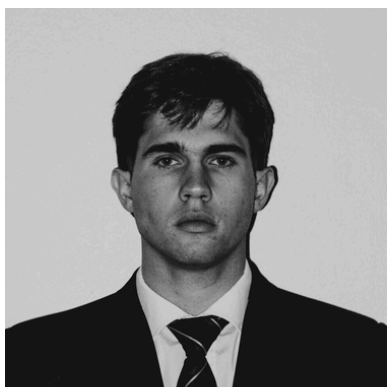
Janneman Brand
Section 9
Archive and Heritage, Critical
Engagement
BAcc LLB III
Gobabis



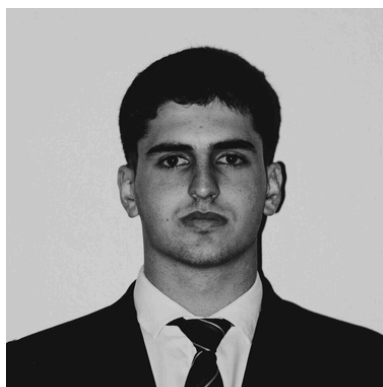
Jan-Hendrik Engelbrecht
Section 10
Quadnaval, Derby,
Jnr/Snr House week
BEng Mechatronics III
Swellendam



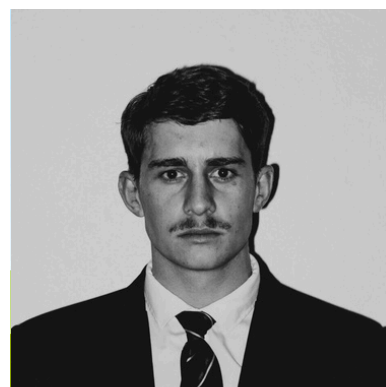
Nico Olivier
Section 11
Reunion, KGB external
BCom Business Analytics III
Alberton



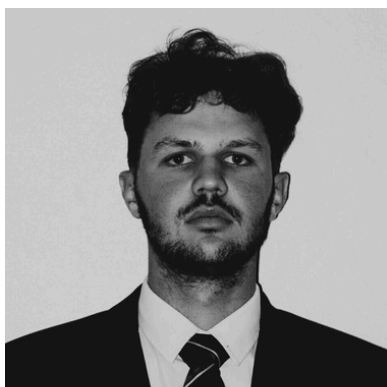
Gerhardus Dixon
Section 12
Sport I, KGB Internal
BEng Mechanical III
Paarl



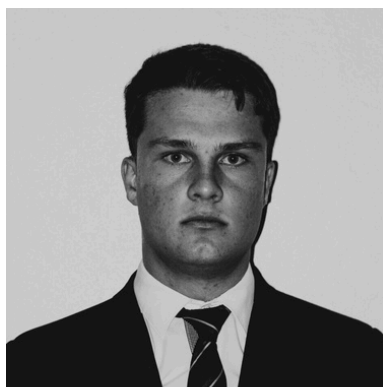
Ruan Lamprecht
Section 13
Helsbreek Boxing,
Connect, Multilinguism
BCom ActSci III
George



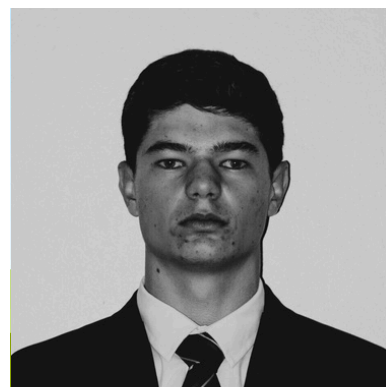
Jaco Slabbert
Section 14
Gym, ODB/JDB
BEng Mechanical III
Cradock



Louis Janse van Vuren
Section 15
House Dance, Staff &
Maintenance
BEng Mechatronics III
Bloemfontein



Arnold Dippenaar
Section 17
Room Allocations, Media
BCom ActSci III
Pretoria



Jandrè du Toit
Section 18
Quad & Sustainability,
Cluster, Straatmyl
BEng Mechanical III
Cradock

SONGS

House Song

Afrikaans

Ken jy die Huis van Roem en
Faam
Op vaste rots gebou
Daar is geen Huis met beter naam
Standvastig en getrou.

Kom Dagbreek laat jou strale
skitter
In lig van volle dag

Kom Dagbreek laat jou strale
skitter
In lig van volle dag!
Kom almal saam
Sprei uit jul faam
Hou hoog jul glorieryke naam!

English

Behold the House, renowned and
famed,
as built on steady ground
There is no House with greater
name
It's steadfast and devout.

Come Dagbreek let your glory
strengthen
In light of shining day

Come Dagbreek let your glory
strengthen
In light of shining day
Join all as one
to greater fame
Uphold and glorify our name!



Dagbreek Eiffel Choir in Action



*Dagbreek Eiffel Choir 2024 (Winners of
the Stellenbosch University Acapella Competition
for a third year in a row)*

Sangers

Ons is sangers van ou Dagbreek
Huis van wêreld Roem en Faam
Van die Kaap tot aan Zambezi
Is geen Huis met beter naam.

Dagbreek, o Dagbreek
Huis van Roem en Faam

Dagbreek, o Dagbreek
Ons hou hoog jou naam!

As die rooidag in die Ooste
Breek met helder reënboogkleur
Sing die skepping van ons tuiste
Bring die naam van Dagbreek eer.

Dagbreek, o Dagbreek
Huis van Roem en Faam
Dagbreek, o Dagbreek
Ons hou hoog jou naam!

Teen die skemer van ons lewe
In die nag van dood en smart
Breek die son van ons verlede
Dagbreek-vreugde in ons hart!

Dagbreek, o Dagbreek
Huis van Roem en Faam
Dagbreek, o Dagbreek
Ons hou hoog jou naam!

"We may not pride ourselves in the achievements which have already been accomplished. Our silent fame lies in the achievements that must still be accomplished."

- Die Eiffel, October 1963

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