

DPCR Alumni Association Annual Report 2016-2017

The board of the DPCR Alumni Association for the period 2016-2017 consisted of Marie Allansson (President), Bea Schönning (Vice-President, autumn 2016), Paulina Cruz Velásquez (Vice-President, spring 2017), Henrik Persson (Secretary), Magnus Öberg (Treasurer) and Christofer Hägg (Department Liaison). Below follows an overview of the Association's activities during 2016-2017.

Activities

A number of social activities were arranged during the year, starting with a pub night/after work at Katalin in Uppsala on 8 June.

The first event of the autumn semester was an event organized jointly by Pax et Bellum, UPaD and the DPCR Alumni Association on 19 September. Nigerian development worker Olutosin Oladosu Adebowale gave a talk on her work, which concentrates on empowering female victims of domestic violence by assisting them in setting up their own businesses in manufacturing products from waste materials. The talk was followed by fika and mingling in the student lounge.

The annual alumni pub quiz was held on 4 October, also this year at Smålands Nation in Uppsala, as part of the National Alumni Week. The theme of this year was the United Nations and included tricky questions on the UN as well as a border-themed picture quiz.

The first event of the spring semester was an extra General Meeting. Beatrice Schönning got an internship abroad and it was decided unanimously by the board that a new Vice-President should be elected for the spring semester. The meeting was held on 17 January and Paulina Cruz Velásquez was elected Vice-President for the spring semester.

The main activity during the spring semester was the annual Alumni Talks, which this year was held on 25 April. This year's theme was "A closer look at the UN". At the event we welcomed two alumni with great experience and insight into the United Nations - from different perspectives: Louise Ohlsson and Henrik Hammargren. Louise Olsson (Ph.D. at the Department in 2007) is a researcher at the DPCR and the Senior Advisor on Women, Peace and Security at the Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA). Henrik Hammargren (Master at the Department in 2004) is the Executive Director for the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation. Professor Peter Wallensteen moderated the talk. The event was filmed and has been viewed nearly 200 times (as of end of May 2017). After interesting presentations and discussions an informal mingle with refreshments was held in the student lounge. All Alumni Talks have been filmed and can be viewed online via links available on <http://www.pcr.uu.se/alumni/>.

Information about all activities have been distributed via email to all members as well as posted in the Association's Facebook-group, which has about 250 members.

Newsletter

The DPCR Alumni Association newsletter was revived after a few years pause and was sent out in mid-April. The newsletter included, among other things; a report from our Secretary, Henrik Persson, who has been an Ecumenical Accompanier in the West Bank; an interview with an alumni member; news from the department; as well as Class Notes. The Class Notes is a new feature that we hope will be continued in future newsletters. The Class Notes are a collection of brief updates from our former Bachelor- and Master students from all around the world. Notes from four graduation classes were included in the newsletter and we hope that this list will grow in the future.

Members

The DPCR Alumni Association has grown by about 10% during 2016-2017 and now has about 330 members. The board has continued to reach out the students at the department through for example short presentations for the bachelor and master students during the autumn semester. During the spring semester, members of the board also participated in the Career Day that was held in Östgöta Nation in Uppsala on 5 April. The Career Day was arranged by several student organizations, including UPaD and Pax et Bellum.

Finance

The Department of Peace and Conflict Research has supported the Association by covering various costs in connection to the Association's activities. Examples of such costs are the rent of a room at Smålands Nation for the Pub Quiz, costs connected to the Alumni Talks (filming etc) and luggage tags which are sent out to all new members.

Administration

The board has worked on strengthening the Association and making it more visible, both through social activities in Uppsala and through contacts with alumni members abroad. An important part of this work has been to establish routines and meeting with other alumni associations through the Uppsala University Alumni Network. Members of the board have participated in the network's meetings and exchanged ideas on how to work with alumni activities etc. Furthermore, the President of the board, Marie Allansson, participated in a national alumni conference held in Uppsala 9-10 November.

The Association has also worked to build and maintain cooperation and contact with the two student organizations at the department, UPaD and Pax et Bellum. As described above we have participated in a number of events together and cooperated in the dissemination of information about our respective events and organizations.