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DPCR Alumni Association Annual Report 2019 – 2020

The board of the DPCR Alumni Association for the period 2019 – 2020 consisted of Gudlaug Olafsdottir (President), Marcellina Priadi (Vice-President), Jenniina Kotajoki (Secretary), Kristina Petrova (Treasurer) and Marie Allansson (Department Liaison). Below follows an overview of the Association's activities during 2019 – 2020.

Activities

Activities during this past year the DPCR Alumni Board have focused on building on the role and mandate of the organization that were further specified in the previous year. The focus has been on reaching out to prospective alumni at both the bachelor and master level, providing fora for alumni to meet, as well as to communicate news and inspiration to alumni around the world. Our activities were to some degree hampered by the spread of COVID-19. Nonetheless, we have focused on maintaining the core activities of the organization's mandate.

The only in-person event that we held prior to the outbreak of COVID-19 was an after-work mingle, held at Teaterbaren in Stockholm, co-organized with the alumni association of the Political Science department (Uppsala Politics Alumniförening). This was a success, with approximately 30 guests attending. The event succeeded in facilitating connections between alumni that had not previously met, as well as providing an opportunity for those that studied together to reunite. The location was selected close to the central station so as to facilitate for both those living and working in Uppsala and Stockholm to be able to attend.

Due to the spread of the virus the Alumni Talks was postponed. Hopefully, it will be held later this year, in the fall. If so, this will be carried out in a manner that is responsible with regards to the risks posed by the spread of COVID-19, and simultaneously facilitates participation for alumni that are not in place in Uppsala/Stockholm. Currently, we are planning on holding it online, with opportunities for people to watch it live, and submit questions during the talk itself, to allow for interaction.

Finances

The Association has not had any costs this year.

Newsletter

The annual DPCR Alumni Association newsletter has been continued this year, as per tradition, and was sent out in the end of May. The newsletter includes, among other items: a few short updates from alumni around the world as well as from the department. This year, due to the limited ability to organize events due to the pandemic, we had three in-depth interviews in the newsletter. Firstly, we conducted one interview with an alumna from the PhD program, Jannie Lilja, who has pursued a successful career in policy both at the United Nations and the World Bank. Second, we held an interview with one alumna from the master class of 2017, Martine Van Mil, who is working with constitution-building and peacebuilding in Myanmar. Third,

shedding light on one of the departments' existing projects the newsletter contains an interview with the leader of the project on Ceasefires, Corinne Bara. It also features news from the Department, as well as Class Notes. Class Notes are a collection of brief updates from our former Bachelor, Master and PhD students (as well as staff members) from all around the world. The aim is to enhance a sense of community and strengthen the connections between alumni, and their connection back to the Department.

Collaborations and communication

The Association has worked to build and maintain cooperation and contact with the two student organizations at the Department, UPaD and Pax et Bellum, along with Alumnföreningen Uppsalapolitices (Political Science Alumni Association). We have collaborated on one event where we organized an after work-mingle for alumni from both the DPCR and the Political Science department in Stockholm, and cooperated in the dissemination of information about our respective organizations and events through social media platforms. We also held a joint meeting together during the fall in 2020 to discuss how to better support one another. On the communications front, our President has continued to post occasionally on the Association's Instagram account, which strives to connect DPCR alumni and showcase their recent activities and achievements. This is entitled "dpcr.alumni", and is accessible at: <https://www.instagram.com/dpcr.alumni/>. All alumni are welcome to follow this, and to submit their latest news and photos. Use of the hashtag #DPCRconnects is warmly encouraged. We have also maintained the facebook and LinkedIn pages, importantly we updated the setting for the LinkedIn group so that more people can find it, and hope that our alumni continue to join these and use them to spread information and connect with one another.

Looking forward, we are developing an outline for a mentorship program linking current students with former students. This program is under development, more will be communicated throughout the summer.

Gudlaug Olafsdottir
President, DPCR Alumni Association
June 08, 2020

