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DPCR Alumni Association Annual Report 2020 – 2021

The board of the DPCR Alumni Association for the period 2020 – 2021 consisted of Gudlaug Olafsdottir (President), Marcellina Priadi (Vice-President), Jenniina Kotajoki (Secretary), Kristina Petrova (Treasurer) and Marie Allansson (Department Liaison, until January 2021). Below follows an overview of the Association's activities during 2020 – 2021.

Activities

During the past year the DPCR Alumni Board has focused on reaching out to prospective alumni at both the bachelor and master level, connecting current student members with other alumni, providing fora and platforms for alumni around the world to communicate. New members were recruited especially through a new mentorship program, by reaching out to current students and by contacting Uppsala University alumni members who studied at the Department. Our activities were to some degree hampered by the COVID-19 pandemic. Nonetheless, we have focused on maintaining the core activities of the organization's mandate and developing ways to connect online.

A virtual mingle for DPCR alumni was co-organized with the student organization of the master students at the Department, Pax et Bellum, in March 2021. The event facilitated connections between alumni that had not previously met, especially between current or recent students and more senior alumni, as well as provided an opportunity for those that studied together to reunite. The event was organized around discussions regarding career development within different fields and alumni that had showed interested in providing guidance to young professionals were contacted beforehand to ensure different expertise being represented in the event. The mingle was a success with approximately 30 guests attending and receiving positive feedback from the participants. The platform used was Wonder that facilitated in-person like interaction.

Jamie Le Seur of the Master class of 2015 was selected the Uppsala University Alumnus of the Year 2020 and held an online talk on March 11th 2021. Many alumni followed the talk.

In the beginning of 2021, the Association launched DPCR's Alumni Association mentorship program. Early-career professionals from the master's programme at the Department were matched with more senior alumni to share advice and guidance on post-master career and professional life during 2021. Altogether, 36 mentorship relations were built for the first year of the program. The mentors and mentees were encouraged to maintain one-on-one contact with one another throughout the course of the year as well as join any events organized by the Association. The Board is available for any queries or ideas regarding the program.

Finances

The Association has not had any costs this year.

Newsletter

The annual DPCR Alumni Association newsletter is planned to be sent out later during 2021 due to recent absence of board members and Department personnel.

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). With Pax et Bellum, the Association has collaborated on organizing an online mingle and launching the mentorship program. On the communications front, we maintained the Facebook and LinkedIn pages as well as the Facebook group, 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 the Board's communication policy. The Association also has an Instagram account "dpcr.alumni" which strives to connect DPCR alumni and showcase their recent activities and achievements. All alumni are welcome to follow this, and to submit their latest news and photos. Use of the hashtag #DPCRconnects is warmly encouraged.

DPCR Alumni Board

June 1, 2021

