

DPCR Alumni Association Annual Report 2015-2016

The board of the DPCR Alumni Association for the period 2015-2106 consisted of Marie Allansson (President), Bea Schönning (Vice-President), Henrik Persson (Secretary), Magnus Öberg (Treasurer) and Christofer Hägg (Department Liaison). Below follows an overview of the Association's activities during 2015-2016.

Activities

A number of social activities was arranged during the year, starting off with a pub night/after work at Katalin in Uppsala on 16 June, which was attended by about 10 alumni members. The next activity was also pub related, but this time it had the form of a pub quiz. The quiz was held at Smålands Nation in Uppsala on 1 October as part of the National Alumni Week and was attended by about 25 alumni members. One month later, on 2 December, a movie night was arranged. A group of about 10 alumni members saw the movie "Taxi Tehran" at Fyrisbiografen in Uppsala. The movie was followed by discussions and fika at café Årummet.

The main activity during the spring semester was the Alumni Talks on 28 April. The first Alumni Talks event was held in 2014 and by arranging a second one in 2016, the board hopes that this will become an annual tradition. This year's theme was "Democracy from Below or Above? Prospects and Challenges for Peace". The two main speakers were Professor Kristine Höglund and Professor Isak Svensson, who both took up the positions as Professors at the Department last year. The talk was moderated by Professor Peter Wallensteen. The event was attended by about 30 alumni members and was followed by a discussion as well as an informal mingle with refreshments.

Both Alumni Talks have been filmed and can be viewed online via links available on <http://www.pcr.uu.se/alumni/alumni-talks/>.

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 230 members.

Members

One of the board's main focuses has been to expand the Association and reach out to new members. The Association had about 175 members as on June 2015. By the end of May 2016, the association has grown to about 300 members.

Several activities have been undertaken in order to inform about the Association, including short presentations for the bachelor and master students during the autumn semester. Members of the board also participated in Pax et Bellum's Advent fika and informed about the DPCR Alumni Association. During the spring semester, members of the board participated both in the Career Day that was held in Östgöta Nation in Uppsala on 30 March and in the Peace Gasque on 8 April, held at the same Nation. The Career Day was arranged by several student organizations, including UPaD and Pax et Bellum. The Peace Gasque was arranged by UPaD and Pax et Bellum.

An email informing about the Association has also been sent to students who have studied at the department during the last three years.

Baggage tags with the text "DPCR, Uppsala University" were posted to all members with a valid post address, including to alumni members in New Zealand and USA.

Administration

The board has aimed at 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 establishing routines and meeting with other alumni associations through the Uppsala University Alumni Network. Members of the board have participated in all of the network's meetings and exchanged ideas on how to work with alumni activities etc. Furthermore, two of the board's members have taken a course in the management of the web-based alumni database which contains the membership registry.

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 seen above we have participated in a number of events together with the student organizations, and also cooperated in the dissemination of information about our respective events and organizations.

Moreover, the board has set up a number of administrative folders in Dropbox as to make all association-related documents easily accessible to all board members, and also to future boards. This increases transparency and saves time, and will hopefully also inspire future boards regarding ideas while planning events etc.

A DPCR Alumni Association roll-up has also been produced in time for the Annual Meeting on 31 May 2016.