

2018 - 2019

HALF YEAR REPORT

AIM STUDY ASSOCIATION



Valentina van Drooge
Manon Michelotti
Josephine Lang
Veerle Beenkens
Johannes Grimmel
Loek Mathies

Beloved Members,

With this half year report we reflect on our year goals as a Board and what the committees have achieved already and what is still to come. We take a look at the three year goals - AIM Community, Reliability and Sustainable Structure - and see what we have realized and what we still want to work on in the coming half year. The committees have written a short reflection about all the fantastic events that they have organized and what is yet to come.

So far, we are very happy what we have already achieved as an association. We plan to keep going this way and to make the next half year even better!

Enjoy reading our half year report!



Much love,

Valentina
Manon
Josephine
Veerle
Johannes
Loek

AIM Community

Our first year goal is to increase the **AIM Community spirit**. So far, we have gotten the personalized membership cards and we have been handing them out to our members. With the cards we have discounts, currently for Athenaeum and Hummus Bistro D&A. Loek is working on getting more soon!

We have also been striving for more **second and third year involvement** in the association. We have quite some second and especially third years involved in committees. Further, the Holiday Party and Winter Formal were very well attended by second and third years. First years are still the most active and attending group, so we think we think there is room for improvement regarding the older years' involvement. However, they are much more involved than we initially thought.

To increase the community feeling we also aimed to increase **GA presence**, so more members are aware of what we are doing. The year GA at the end of October was attended by around fifty people. A lot of people attending were committee members, since we asked them to join us. We are very happy with the turnout and hope to continue to get high GA presence numbers.

We wanted our **committee members to feel appreciated**, as they organize our AIM events. There is a special committee appreciation event on its way. Further, we feel we have a good relation with our committees and we tell them often how happy we are with what they are doing. We also see that the committees are more involved in general and they support each other. We see Party and Charity committee working together quite a lot, for the Holiday Party, the pub quiz, and Winter Formal. Debate and Academic are working together as well to organize a movie screening and subsequent discussion. In the AIM community we see a strong community of our active members that can use AIM as a development platform to share ideas.

Regarding this goal there are a couple of things that we still want to achieve during our board year. Firstly, we want to **reach 400 members**. We have already reached 374 members and with the Lustrum ticket sale and by getting more discounts for the membership card we hope to get even more members! Furthermore, Lustrum will hopefully prove to help set up an **alumni network** of old members, which we hope that the increased community spirit will help grow. Lastly, we want to make sure our **committees will still feel appreciated** at the end of the year. We will organize a bigger committee appreciation event at the end of the year and keep showing them how much we appreciate them throughout the year!

Reliability

We believe that the **improved communication** with our committees is a work in progress, with it going in the right direction. The implementation of positions for every member of a committee has greatly contributed to this. Committee members now also know who of the board they should reach out to with position-specific questions, so we think that our **visibility to (committee) members** is working out well. We have to ensure that the direct communication between committee members and the board members with the same position does not come at the detriment of the involvement/the ability to stay involved of the internal commissioners.

Besides improved communication with our committees, we also wanted to improve the communication with the PPLE administration. This has greatly improved in the last half-year. Valentina has monthly meeting with Nathalie (Education Desk) and monthly meetings with Radboud. There is still room for improvement in the communication between Radboud and Valentina, which is one of the things that Valentina will focus on the coming months.

We wished to **continue the process of professionalizing AIM** as an association, both internally as the way we present ourselves externally. Overall, we are very happy with how this process has taken shape thus far. An important aspect was the creation of an AIM identity, supported by a consistent promotion style and a new website. Especially Manon has worked very hard and successfully to create a consistent promotion style, with the four ticks and navy blue having become part of the AIM identity. We have also started to use the Instagram as an important and valuable platform to reach our members, which has resulted in hundreds of new followers and more generally having another, less formal, platform to either get members excited for upcoming events or to reminisce about successful events. The new website is in the finalizing stages at the time of writing this, so that should be up and running in the upcoming weeks.

Internally we also wanted to **professionalize our administration**, which we did by implementing both a new member administration system and a new financial administration system. The new member administration system is already in use, and this process will be finalized as soon as the new website is published. The new financial administration system is on its way and will link invoices and other documents with the ING processes automatically, track accounts receivable and produce financial reports to visualise monetary in- and outflows, making the bookkeeping clearer.

Lastly we wanted to ensure that members know who we are, what we do and that they feel comfortable to approach us. To stimulate this, we make sure that from 11 am until 5 pm there is at least one board member present in the boardroom, so that members can walk in at any time. We feel that many people are aware of this, and that also our

committee members do come up to us if they wish to talk to any of us. We are working on getting banners, which we will put outside of the boardroom, and we hope that they will clarify that that is the AIM boardroom.

Sustainable Structure

Our third goal for the upcoming year was to build a sustainable structure for the association. As a part of this goal, we **changed the committee structure** in the beginning of the year by setting the clubs aside and instead focus on a strong set of committees. We also changed the structure within the committees: in addition to the positions of chair, secretary and treasurer, we included the positions of marketing officer and external commissioner to our committees. We believe this has worked out very well so far, as we have noticed that our committee members feel responsible for the tasks that are part of their position, and are also willing to put in extra effort outside of their assigned position. Additionally, this has helped to improve the communication between the committees and the board, as it is very clear for us which person within the committee to address for specific questions. The new division between the two internal commissioners has also proven to be very effective.

We also aimed to build a solid **network of relevant study associations**. Not only did we bond with the boards of other associations during the oh-so-lovely CoBo's in the beginning of the year, but we also had fun with PPE during our borrel at Amstel54. The close connection to these other associations is also reflected in our TAB and AB, which both include members of befriended study organizations. There are also some very exciting event collaborations coming up in the second half of the year, so keep an eye out!

An important part of our sustainable structure is still coming up in the second half of the year: the **transition to the new board**. We have already started writing our white papers to pass on the experience we have gained during our board year so far. Of course there is still more work to be done in this regard, so we will continue to be working on a wholesome transition to the next board and committees in the upcoming half year.

Although the extent to which these efforts are indeed durable will have to be determined in the future, we think we are well on our way to create a solid foundation that the future years of AIM can build upon!

Our Committees

AIM Merchandise



AIM Merchandise sent out a poll in the beginning of the year to get a better understanding of what their target audience wants to see in the upcoming merchandise. From this they established what kind of merchandise they want to make, placing their focus on designing a hoody. Recently, AIM Merchandise sent out an additional poll to inquire about preferences for colours and hoody designs. Furthermore, the people filling in the poll were asked to

provide feedback, which the Merchandise Committee plans to use in order to develop their designs further. They also found a company based in the UK that could produce the hoodies and AIM Merchandise is currently in contact with them via email and telephone. They arranged with them that they are getting some sample hoodies that they can then showcase in the common room. When this is accomplished they will start arranging for pre-orders and from there figure out how many hoodies they need to supply to meet the demand.

Additionally, they collaborated with the AIM board to present 18 lucky AIM members with a Christmas advent gift in the form of a water bottle. AIM Merchandise found the producer and designed the bottles.

They are still very enthusiastic about the committee and hope to have all of the merchandise done, but for now they aim to at least get their main project done before thinking of the smaller ideas. Although not all the designs are in mint condition yet, they plan on stylising them further to make them look more clean and professional for the final product.

AIM Lustrum



The Lustrum committee has announced their plans for the best week of the year: the Lustrum week! Who would have expected Thuishaven for a friends-day festival and Kasteel Oud Was-senaar - yes, a CASTLE - for the lustrum dinner and gala? They kicked off ticket sales with a Lustrum borrel at Kopstootbar, where the Dutch 'kopstootjes' flowed freely (and were felt the next morning). Ever since, tickets went like hot buns, with the final passe-partouts being sold as we speak. In the coming months they will be working hard to finalize the Academic opening and Movie Day, to book the best DJs for the parties, and to keep you hyped for what is to come.

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AIM Sports



In the beginning of the year AIM Sports set themselves the goal to organise four events. So far, they have done two of them and they both exceeded their expectations both in terms of attendees and in the way they were received.

The inaugural event was the "AIM Ice Skating at Rijksmuseum". Despite the relatively small number of promotional efforts, lots of people signed up and had a great time. The

heavy rainfall didn't seem to bother anyone and the handing out of skating gear went surprisingly smooth. Their second event was the "AIM Winter trip to Winterberg". With a group of 30 AIM members, they spent a weekend (après-)skiing and snowboarding, and even the rain did not stop them from having fun on the slopes. The first ever AIM Winter trip was a full success with lots of positive feedback - we can't wait for next year!

AIM Sports has two more events coming up: the notorious dodgeball tournament, which they expect to be keenly anticipated and the charity run in coordination with AIM Charity. In terms of the charity run, they are in the process of arranging a meeting with the head of AIM Charity Nienke Tas to talk through the realisation of the run and

to find a suitable date (preferably at the same date as the Wings for Life run). Regarding the dodgeball tournament, they still have to meet with last year's committee to get some information about the best possible location. They expect the dodgeball tournament to take place in June.

AIM Party



As of today, the AIM Party committee has organised and executed three Borrels on their own, two in cooperation with other committees, and one Party. They have done their best to continue in last years Borrel footsteps by organising original and exciting Borrels throughout the city.

They kicked off our year with the classic Halloween Borrel in one of Amsterdam newest bar additions "t' Lammetje", followed by the first ever AIM silent disco Borrel in another newly opened club. Winding down a bit before their first party they then hosted the "PPLE staff Borrel" at Amstelhaven, offering all students and staff a relaxed after Uni place to mingle. As for December, in order to include as many third years as possible in their final Winter Formal, they organised the first ever PPLE Holiday party at club Claire. In January they cooperated with the Lustrum and Charity Committee for the first two Borrels of the year, spending the extra time on organising the Winter Formal in February. They were scouting different locations and due to circumstances beyond their control they ended up losing multiple locations, still managing to turn it around and find a beautiful and new location for the most magical night of the year. Finally, they have begun to work with the Charity Committee for parties with donation options and a Winter Formal raffle.

For the future, Party Committee will begin by hosting the Winter Formal, then they will start up hosting Borrels again. Some of the Borrels they are planning on having in the next few months include Wine tasting, Karaoke, possibly another Silent Disco and also collaborative Borrels with other associations to burst the PPLE bubble. Regarding parties, the new year will bring new collaborated parties with SES and possibly PPE, or even new associations that they haven't had an event with yet such as the psychology association VSPA. One of Party's new projects instead of the classic Valentines Day party is the "May I be your lover" party coming up in may, which they hope to host in cohort with one or two other associations. And last but not least they will organise the legendary Boat Party when summer comes along. They look forward to working with

the Charity Committee on all future party events and are always open for creative input from all students.

AIM Yearbook



The Yearbook Committee is well under way with its preparatory works regarding the Yearbook for the PPLE Class of 2019.

They have created a time and promotion planning for the upcoming months including the deadlines at which they want input from different actors (third year students, PPLE

teaching staff, etc.) and working deadlines for themselves. Furthermore they have reached out to the Party Committee to schedule a Yearbook Borrel approximately a week before the Graduation, at which they can launch the Yearbook. They have also decided on guidelines for both content and design of the Yearbook and they have sought contact with the PPLE Administration regarding the role of Yearbook committee in helping out with the Graduation Ceremony, especially regarding the composition of a musical intermezzo act and the selection of Graduation Speeches.

They are still to establish final contact with the printing distributor and they are still to establish a photographer who will take the pictures of our third years, which they are working on currently. They are still also to attract and select people who want to perform a musical intermezzo act during the Graduation. Lastly, they still have to await confirmation by the PPLE Administration regarding their proposed procedure for the Graduation Speeches.

AIM Debate



Since its beginning last fall, the debate committee has organized four events centered around the following topics:

- Is democracy good?
- Does feminism pay enough attention to gender issues faced by men?

- Should the West militarily intervene in Ukraine?
- Should the state run a national pornography channel?

Each debate was attended by roughly a dozen people. Thanks to the relatively small number of participants, everyone is generally able to express their points of view. Combined with the easily accessible debate style used, this has allowed the debate committee to evolve into a friendly community that discusses controversial topics while bonding over refreshments.

The main issue facing the debate committee is attendance. A majority of all participants are part of the same circle of people, mostly consisting of first year students. As mentioned above, having a circle of regulars has several advantages, but the committee does seek to attract newcomers. To achieve this, several measures have already been or are currently being taken:

- Starting a mailing list targeted at the aforementioned circle of regulars to spread information about the committee and its events by word of mouth
- Exploring topics that are less frequently discussed in PPLE so as to avoid turning debate events into extra tutorials (compare the first two topics to the last two)
- Debating issues that, given the homogeneity of political views within PPLE, are more polarizing, and, therefore, more interesting (again, compare the first two and last two topics)
- Screening thought-provoking material during the event to stimulate the subsequent debate
- Cooperating with other similar organizations both within and outside of PPLE in order to organize larger events that attract more people

With these guiding principles in mind, AIM Debate is cooperating with AIM Academic to organize an event during which a documentary discussing the advantages of hunting for the environment and the economy will be screened. This will be followed by a debate on this issue.

AIM Debate has also reached out to study associations within SES and AUC to organize joint events. These are currently at a purely conceptual stage but, if they are to occur, would also increase knowledge of AIM Debate within PPLE.

AIM Travel



Here is a little update from the Travel Committee: There are only 73 days left before departure to Iceland which the committee is very excited about! For Iceland, a visit with the Parliament has been booked and ready. Otherwise the committee is very busy organising the remaining activities for the trip. They have contacted ministers asked for meetings with them so the people on the trip can have a

greater insight into the country's local political and environmental life. The Travel Committee has also managed to get a meeting confirmed with the Central Bank so the students can learn more about the banking crisis and how Iceland managed to recover from it. There will also be a meeting with the UNWomen committee to know more about the situation of gender equality in the country and in politics! There are plans on meeting up with a student association so everyone can bond with people from our age. There will be a day-trip to visit the geothermal exhibition and probably to the southern part of the island.

At the same time, the Travel Committee is also working hard on the Weekend trip to Thessaloniki. They are super excited to take a group of sun-seeking PPLEers to the Mediterranean. There will also be activities to make the most of the cultural heritage of the city, making this a truly wholesome trip. Starting from February, AIM Travel is welcoming a new addition to the team: Tess is the new Treasurer and the committee and the Board are extremely excited about that.

AIM Academic



After the formation of the new Academic Committee 2018/19, we established that we wanted to host a total of four events based on the topics of Corruption, Security and Sustainability. We were planning on hosting a movie screening, a

panel discussion, a day-trip and a workshop.

On Friday the 7th of December we hosted our kick-off event for the academic year of 2018/19. We screened the IDFA awarded movie: "National Bird," directed by Sonia Kennebeck which centered on the issue of unmanned armed vehicles (aka. drones). The screening was followed by a Q&A session with Fulco van Deventer and Thalia Malmberg, members of the Human Security Council. About 50 people attended and we received very positive feedback from the event.

Furthermore, AIM Debate approached us to collaborate on an event. Together, we will host a debate which will be sparked by an approx. 15 minutes short-movie on big game hunting and conservation. This event will take place on the 18th of February at the Roterseiland Campus.

Our next event will be a panel discussion on Whistleblowing. Louis and Cara are primarily in charge of this event, which will take place on the 8th of March. Thus far, a venue, being room A2.06 at the UVA has been booked and numerous potential speakers have been contacted. Naomi Colvin is the only speaker who has confirmed her participation and booked a flight. We are still waiting for confirmatory answers of other speakers.

Simultaneously, we are working on our next event of which Katarina and Joseph are primarily in charge: the day-trip to the ICJ in the Hague. The current prediction is that the trip will either take place on the 5th or the 12th of April and we will be able to bring a max. of 30 people. We will get a private tour and presentation at the ICJ and might even be able to attend a court hearing scheduled that day.

After our panel discussion, we will proceed to look further into our last event of the year: a workshop on sustainability (potential venue: Tony Chocolonely Factory).

AIM Charity



In the past half year, we have achieved many things with the Charity Committee. As a new committee, these few months have been defining for their position with AIM: they needed to get their name out there and make sure to become an established committee that the members know. The committee has been successfully doing this by clearly defining

their events and by promoting it well on AIM's social media channels.

The events can be divided into three categories: events that are organized by the committee, tag-along events and fundraising collaborations. For the committee this is a beneficial division because it allows to reflect on what kind of events work best with PPLE students. This is important information when keeping an eye on the future. So far, the events the committee organized themselves and the fundraising collaborations have been the most successful: AIM Charity has raised over 400 euros and 13 bags of clothing. What they are planning on working on the coming few blocks are tag-along events, which is where we take AIM members to an already existing event (such as the refugee dinner in October).

The most exciting event the committee hosted so far was the KWF Fundraiser Borrel. This had not been done before by Charity (unlike the clothing drive) and so this was new territory. The committee ended up raising 260 euros and making it a more exclusive borrel in a private event room really paid off – they got good feedback from the attendees. They therefore hope this event will be on next year's Charity Committee's agenda as well. Furthermore, the collaborations with Party have been very successful: they are very open to helping raise funds and there is the winter formal raffle coming up, which they hope will be a success.

For the rest of the year, they still have a sponsor run planned and they hope to do a more academically oriented event. Furthermore, they hope to collaborate with Party more, especially on their May event that's "love" themed – they would love to do a date auction or a kissing booth. In general, however, they are open-minded to all ideas and try to take it one month at a time!