

ANNUAL REPORT

FORTUNA IN 2016-2017

Cris van Eijk

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Throughout the 2016-2017 academic year, one sentence kept running through my mind. This year – my last at LUC – can be defined by just five words. That surprises me, if I'm honest. This year was a busy one for many, me included. Between academics, capstone, and chairing the Fortuna Board, I would have expected my experiences from the year to form a novella, not a sentence. But there we are.

LUC is a special place.

Something happens at LUC that doesn't happen at many other universities. 'Welcoming' doesn't even begin to describe it. For more students every year, The Hague is a new and potentially foreboding place. Even for locals, coming to university can be utterly terrifying. Many of us came to LUC without knowing the language, without knowing what we would study, and without knowing who we would become.

The guiding principle of Fortuna is that academics and social life go hand in hand. Both, together, create the well-rounded global citizens for which LUC's curriculum is designed. Together, we ensured that there was always a space to develop ourselves – be it our Dutch language skills at the weekly Dutch lessons, or our dancing skills at a USL party.

So thank you all for creating a community that was so consistently and disarmingly open. At least for me, that made all the difference. There is a social bravery here that helped me – and many others, I am sure – become the person I am today.

The LUC community does not come about by accident. This year I learned firsthand just how much work goes into its cultivation. I would like to thank all of you for doing your part to keep LUC the place that it is. I'm especially grateful to the boards of our committees and teams, the advisory board, and those special students dedicated to student life outside of either group. And finally, I would like to thank the seventh Fortuna Board for their support and hard work. Our work was not always easy, fun, or even evident, but I am absolutely certain it made all the difference.

Thank you,

Cris van Eijk

FORTUNA BOARD 2016-2017



Cris van Eijk Chair
Mariam Orjonikidze Secretary, Vice-Chair
Olivia Mantock Treasurer
Rik den Hoedt..... Committee Affairs Officer, UCSRN Social Representative
Merlijn de Jong Committee Affairs Officer
Naomi Moonlion Internal Communications Officer

IN A NUTSHELL

- 600+ events organized
- Average of 20 events per week
- €38,766.22 allocated
- 33 committees and subcommittees

BOARD OBJECTIVES

Fortuna's mission statement is "to socially and academically enrich the lives of the students of Leiden University College The Hague," according to Article 4.1 of our foundational document. This year, aside from coordinating and facilitating events organized by committees and teams, the board aimed to do our part to make student life at LUC as healthy, active, and ingrained as possible.

This came in many forms. For instance, a major focus of this year's board was student wellbeing, culminating in the Wellbeing Week in Block II jointly organized by the Residential Assistants, Fortuna Board, and LUC administration.

We also made activity a priority. This year's Fortuna board endeavored to attend at least one event per week, and ideally more. We did our best to facilitate diversity in events – funding and coordinating parties and weekly women's meetings alike – to allow as many people as possible to participate. In the end, through hard work from board and student body, we were able to host an average of 20 events per week, the highest level of association activity in recent memory.

A crucial part of improving activity is making it easy for students to be active participants. To this end, we aimed to make general assemblies as efficient and painless as possible to encourage attendance. Our third and final GA was a record 45 minutes long!

Finally, we worked to ensure the long-term development of Fortuna. For example, in our second GA we passed 10 amendments to the Rules of Procedure to update and prepare Fortuna for its eighth year. Thanks to a generous donation from LUC and in collaboration with Coasters, we designed and bought furniture for the first floor, making the student lounge a comfortable place to spend time. We also worked with the Student Life Officer, Residential Assistants, and College Council to circulate a petition for round-the-clock security at LUC, to keep LUC safe and to lengthen the open hours of campus events. Finally, towards the end of the year, we worked with SportsCo to begin the process of joining the HVV Football Factory in The Hague, broadening the future scope of sports at LUC.

These are just a few of the objectives we worked towards this year. Though there were many that were not seen to fruition, I am proud of the work we accomplished, and excited to see what next year will bring.

COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE OF THE YEAR – FORTUNETV

Every year, the Fortuna Board honors one committee whose work towards LUC student life has gone above and beyond expectations. Though many committees worked to foster the LUC community, we are proud to award FortuneTV Committee of the Year for 2016-2017.

(right: FortuneTV production team)



LIST OF COMMITTEES AND TEAMS

- 22FM
- Act Aware
- Amnesty International
- Beyond Arts
- Dies Fatalis
- Dutch Language and Culture Club
- Exchange Committee (ExCo)
- FilmCo
- FortuneTV
- Hitchhiking
- La Espero
- Library Team
- LUCMUN
- LUC Diversity
- LUC.ID
- LUC Volunteer
- Ludens
- Medlife
- PAX Magazine
- SportsCo
- Underground Student Life
- Wellbeing Week
- Winter Gala
- Yearbook Team



*Above: LUC Thanksgiving Dinner, LUC Diversity – Interfaith
Below: Ubuntu Exhibition, LUC.ID*



NOTABLE EVENTS – SEMESTER 1

With over 600 events held this year, including all of them would be impossible. Thankfully, the LUC Yearbook Team has assembled an excellent overview already. Here are some events I remember fondly.

Wellbeing Week – October 31st-November 4th

In the second week of Block II, Fortuna, the RAs, and LUC came together to put on LUC's second Wellbeing Week. During this week, various committees held events themed around self-care, including a yoga lesson, an open art session and a dinner catered by local restaurant Brasserie Up. The event intended to bring attention to many aspects of self-care, including nutrition, sexual health, and mental wellbeing. As a close to the week, we presented the results of a college-wide poll on mental health at LUC. After these results, a conversation was held with all in attendance to discuss steps to improve support networks for students dealing with mental illnesses of many kinds.

LUC Thanksgiving Dinner – November 23rd

LUC Diversity's Interfaith subcommittee formally took charge of Thanksgiving this year, inviting the entire student body to a potluck Thanksgiving dinner. The American classics were all there – sweet potato casserole, cranberry sauce, and, of course, a turkey or two. In true LUC spirit, many students brought their own national dishes, such as Swedish meatballs and Dutch apple pie. The entire first floor was filled with students, many of whom experienced their first-ever Thanksgiving Dinner.

Winter Wonderland Gala – December 11th

After last year's hit Lustrum Gala co-organized with LUC, Fortuna had some serious shoes to fill. The Lustrum team worked around the clock to present a true Winter Wonderland, with Christmas trees and all. LUC.ID was ready with a photo booth to capture our good sides. LUC Swing and LUC Dance both brought down the house with performances, and the bartenders kept everyone merry. We are especially grateful to LUC for generously donating funding for a bus service to bring us all home after what was definitely not a Silent Night!

USL Homecoming Party – February 2nd

Parties in the first semester were certainly fun, but those returning third years back from exchange made all the difference! Havanas was packed, and the LUC Spirit was electric. Six months may not be very long, but from the reunions happening throughout the evening, you might have thought it had been years. Best of all, since good things come in threes, there was an extra special bonus for Underground Student Life. Aside from an excellent party and a great third-year reunion, a handy miscommunication ended up earning USL quite the profit from the evening, bolstering their funding for the rest of the semester.

UCSRN Tournament – April 22nd

LUC brought their a-game to Amsterdam this year. 80 students competed in events ranging from hockey to chess, and everything in between. Though an... interesting scoring methodology resulted in LUC earning fourth place overall, we placed brought home gold in basketball, men's football, volleyball, chess, and 24-hour film, and placed second in hockey and dance.

Beyond Arts Festival – May 8th

This year's Beyond Arts Festival theme was "Glow", but I actually think LUC did a lot more shining than glowing. From the performances by the LUC band to poetry by Ilyaas Sherally to the hilarious MCs Zoe and Sarah, the night was one of surprising and impressive talents all around. Best of all, it was a great end to an excellent Beyond Arts year.

Dies Fatalis – May 24th

This year's Dies was ambitious, to say the least. Its venue in the Kurhaus-Amrath, its use of livestreaming, its multiple live performances and choirs, and its post-show open bar all threatened potentially disastrous consequences for Fortuna and the Dies Fatalis Team. Thankfully, it was a roaring success! As a graduating third year, I can only say that it was the best way to leave LUC – and that amazing scenic background was great for our profile pictures too.

Despite the eventful year behind us, there are still many initiatives with progress yet to be made. These are just a few thoughts at the end of the year, though I know for a fact that your Fortuna Board for this year has a whole set of great things planned.

Fortuna Library

Did you know that Fortuna has its own library? For years, the office on floor 1 has amassed quite a collection of novels, textbooks, and DVDs – and even a signed dissertation by the renowned Dr. Dan Saxon. I would like to extend my thanks to the Library Team for their work in cataloguing our collection. In the next years this will no doubt be turned into a more useful resource for the student body to enjoy.

First Floor Furniture

One of the most visible results of this board year was the first floor furniture. Though Coasters collaborated with Fortuna to design the first floor, and LUC donated the funding to purchase it, the furniture is entirely owned by Fortuna. From bar nights on the tables to sleeping third years on the couches, it was clearly appreciated. Hopefully, the first floor will continue to be the cosy and welcoming place it became this year!

Exchange Committee

This year, the Exchange Committee was set up at the end of the academic year to tackle a perennial problem at LUC – involving our exchange students in student life. With close collaboration with our Exchange Officer, Hung-Wah Lam, this group will work in the next years to ensure no student feels left behind.

24/7 Security Initiative

This year, a petition written by the Residential Assistants was circulated with support from both Coasters and Fortuna for round-the-clock security at the Anna van Buerenplein building. This petition was widely signed, and though the process will be a long one, the 2016-17 Fortuna Board looks forward to its result.