

ISSUE 2 | 2023/2024

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# Per vectum

## FEATURING

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Working at a startup with all Econometricians- Edwin



Valentin's Exchange in sunny California



Carnaval Costume Ideas

# Word of The President



Dear reader,

Although we are already a full month into 2024, I want to start off by wishing you all a happy new year. I hope you were able to make the most of the Christmas break and are now ready to take on the second semester of the year. I would also like to warmly welcome back the third years from their exchange and am looking forward to seeing them again every Tuesday. The upcoming semester will hold great significance for the majority of you, as it will be your final semester before graduating and completing your bachelor's thesis. However, the majority of our master's students have already begun working on their thesis, so you are not alone in taking the last step towards graduation. Now that they know their exchange university for the next autumn semester and can begin easing into their preparations for their semester overseas, our second-year students are also entering an exciting phase in their student life.

I am honoured to say that our successes did not end in period 1 of this year. Though the weather did go spiralling down in period 2, Vectum only went up! During this time we got to enjoy numerous events with our beloved members starting off the period right with, unfortunately indoor, but still beach volleyball for our sporty econometricians. Following this we got the opportunity to practise our poker faces at our Vectum Casino Night, where we unfortunately, or fortunately depending how lucky you count yourself to be, do not play with real money. Of course as December was round the corner we had to put our festive hats back on for our annual Sinterklaas event where we got a special discount to see Sinterklass himself, aka Martin Bergmann. For our last event of the year we laced up our skates for a frosty adventure on the ice, twirling and gliding under the enchanting glow of twinkling lights. Which if you could decipher this means ice skating at the Vrijthof. As one of our Vectum classics we got to see many members enjoy their time trying to find their balance on ice but also got a warm surprise from our honorary member Tobi Breuer. For more information on all of the activities I encourage you to continue reading the Per Vectum where you will also find out about our first in house day of the year with the Ministry of Education, Welfare and Sciences in The Hague.

Once 2024 arrived we could no longer keep our achievements away from our members hence we held the semi-annual General Members Assembly where we got to share all of our accomplishments thus far and share exciting events to come. A specifically exciting event is the National Econometricians' Day (LED) in Noordwijk for those third-years and masters lucky enough to have obtained a ticket. Looking further ahead there are several other career events coming up, like case days, in-house days, and the Econometrics Consultancy Tour, and of course a long overdue Vectum Business trip which is coming back for the first time in 5 years. Do not worry we still have our weekly activities waiting for you if this does not sound of interest to you, as well as the Vectum International Trip taking place during the resit week of period 4

We are halfway through our board year, I realise as the first semester comes to an end. A realisation that evokes conflicting emotions in me. On the one hand, I believe the first half taught me a lot and helped me grow as a person. On the other side, I'm eager to see what more we can achieve during the second half. In any case, the time to pass the torch to the next generation comes closer, meaning we will also have to start thinking about who the next bearer will be. If you are interested, definitely be sure to come to the board info session in week 4 of the coming period.



***Aleksandra Piekarska***

*29th President of*



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# Karaoke Night

By Quinn Cuijpers

One of my favorite activities of the last few years are the active members activities and it seems I am not the only one that thinks so as Vectum decided to repeat last years hit: Karaoke. Hosted in the basement of Que Pasa for both the acoustics and vibes, we forgot one crucial part to make this party work, Wi-Fi. Turns out basements tend to lack the connection required for karaoke to work effectively. However, we are the econometrics association, a room full of people who have survived subjects like linear algebra and probability theory, trained for solving problems, and as such we decided to move into the bigger basement. Unfortunately, this did not help the connectivity issues. Luckily, we have a board who is quick on their feet, and we were able to move everything into the upstairs room of Que Pasa.



While it took a bit to get started, the second that first song played you could see the fun in everyone's eyes. From Aleksandra's everlasting enthusiasm to Valentin getting people to jump arm in arm. There were many great songs played during this activity, but I must highlight a few. First off, the song that made the swifties flock to the microphones, Blank Space. Especially our biggest Taylor fangirl Aashia. Secondly, it wouldn't be Vectum karaoke without Leru and Valentin, our Moldovan geniuses, singing a song together. However, there is only one answer for the best song of the night. A live performance of Lonely by our very own Joshua.

As with all Vectum evenings, eventually the end was coming in sight, but that meant that we could do one final song. Our song that has been used as a closing song since forever: Piano Man. Huddled up into a circle, arm in arm, we sang our song at the top of our lungs (for those that knew the lyrics at least), which brought a great close to this activity made to thank the members of the several committees that helped the board make Vectum what it is.



PARTY

KARAOKE







# Semi-Annual GMA

**By Aashia Chanana**

The curtain rose on the much-anticipated Semi-Annual General Members Assembly (GMA) on January 26, 2024, an evening that promised to be an unforgettable showcase of achievements and aspirations. Unlike our usual grand gathering at the Aula, this year, due to unforeseen circumstances, we found ourselves in the cozy confines of room TS53 A1.23. The change in venue, however, did little to dampen the spirits of us boardies. Excitement radiated through the room as we eagerly prepared to present the fruits of our labor from the first semester of our board year and unveil our ambitious plans for Vectum's future.

Our President, Aleksandra, kicked things off with a quick overview of Vectum and our connections with LOES and Scope. Then, Joshua, the Vice President, talked about Vectum's sponsors and the cool events lined up for the next semester. Next up was me – the Secretary and PR Coordinator. I shared about the changes in our magazine, PerVectum, and how we're reaching more people with our events and cool merchandise that we have in development.

Piotr, our Treasurer, gave everyone a peek into the numbers, the balance sheet and the profit and loss statement of Vectum and here you see all the money we spend on those free drinks at the preuv for you ;) Finally, Martin, Internal Affairs Coordinator, talked about our weekly activities and trips from the first semester. He also spilled the beans about his plans for the weekly activities for the second semester and Vectum's first International Trip to the sun-kissed shores of Split, Croatia!

A big shoutout to our active members who help us every day. We hope you had as much fun in the first semester as we did! See you in the second semester for more adventures, achievements, and, of course, fun!



# Halloween Movie Night



By Maria Barbueros



Gathered under the pale glow of moonlight, our Halloween Movie Night was an enchanting blend of horror movies, breathtaking costumes, and spine-tingling stories. As the crisp autumn air wrapped around us, the haunting tales we shared added an extra layer of mystery to an already spooky evening. The festive mood was set by the ghostly decor and the variety of costumes that everyone put so much thought and effort into crafting.

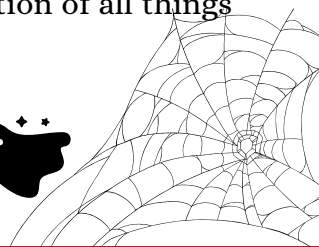


The night began with a traditional Halloween activity: the Movie Marathon. The star of the evening was the iconic “Scream”, which made us laugh, scream and sigh in disbelief. The best part about the movie, however, is that it acted like an “icebreaker”, awakening, in some of us, the desire to share our own horror stories, those which either we have lived or witnessed. The frightening nature of the anecdotes was heightened by a unique element which the storyteller had to wear: the white mask, worn by the killers in “Scream”.



The night concluded with everyone’s favourite: the costume contest. Since every burst of creativity should be rewarded, this was the perfect opportunity to award those who put the most effort into their appearance. Safe to say, that the Vectum activity was attended by a variety of intriguing characters: from “The Men in black” to “Barbie”, “Angels”, “A Resit Exam” and the “Crazy Professor”. The contest was accompanied by a fashion show, in which the characters portrayed had to come to life. The costume, paired with his convincing performance, made Joshua (our vice president) the winner of the night.

As the night concluded, the echoes of spine-chilling tales, the thrill of the Halloween Movie Marathon, and the creative brilliance of the Costume Contest lingered in the crisp autumn air. Our Halloween Movie Night was more than a gathering; it was a journey into the realms of fear and imagination, ensuring that this night will be remembered as a spellbinding celebration of all things eerie and mysterious.





# In-house day



Ministerie van Onderwijs, Cultuur en Wetenschap

**By Joshua Smilde**

On the 16th of November, a group of 14 eager students embarked on the first in-houseday of the academic year to the Ministerie van Onderwijs, Cultuur & Wetenschap (Ministry of Education, Culture & Science) in The Hague, and what a success it was!

Only moments after the sign-ups went online, this event was completely booked, and so on that dedicated morning of the 16th, these students who were compelled to learn more about the governmental workings, or perhaps just to get out of Maastricht for once, headed out to always sunny Oh Oh Den Haag.

We were welcomed with coffee and cake, following Dutch tradition. After the first bit of not-so-chit-chatting - immediately debating the increased interest rates on student debt - we received an interesting presentation explaining the purpose and operations of the Ministry. It touched upon the recent task that the Ministry completed, namely simplifying the educational subsidiary system, which would later be the subject of the cases we got to work on.



As if toured around by Felix in Saltburn, we got shown around the Ministry's impressive building, even visiting the offices of Robert "Mr. Oppenheimer" Dijkgraaf, who leads the Ministry, and those of other highly ranked government officials. We then split up in small groups to work on the cases, which involved some coding in R and made the tasks interesting.

After discussing the results of the cases, we ended the remarkable day with a 'naborrel', involving drinks and cheese snacks and some nice conversations. Vectum, as always, hadn't yet drank enough so it called for a visit to the Hague's city center. Now the trip felt really completed and so we took a 3-hour train ride back to safe and sound Maastricht.

**Thank you for hosting us!**





# Indoor Beach Volleyball



By **Fe Adorée Helder**

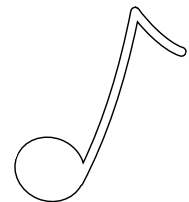
On November 7th of 2023, 25 members of Vectum commuted to Heerlen, you may ask: What was Vectum celebrating? Drumrolls please, Vectum was playing Indoor Beach Volleyball !!!

We had to separate into two teams to transport all the athletes to the indoor beach volleyball field. The first team was the car team, where thankfully we could commute with some cars owned by Vectum students and had a chill route to Heerlen. The second team, a.k.a the NS team, had to take a train as well as a bus to arrive at our destination. Thankfully everything was beyond perfectly planned where none of the team had to wait for the others.

When arriving we were received by the lovely owners of the gym facility and very nice Dutch music, which became the playlist of the night. It sounded something like:

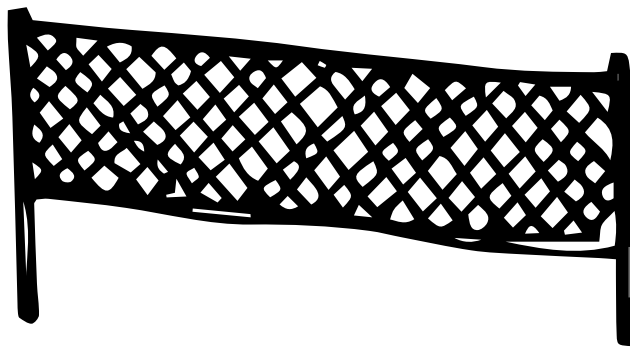


“Oh kleine jodeljongen  
Jij heb voor mij gezongen  
En jou liedje was mij in gedachten  
En de bergen met hun wond're nachten  
Oh 't is alsof m'n oren  
Zacht zilv'ren klokjes horen  
Die jou jub'lend door het dal  
Liedje en het wondere melodietje  
Uit het land der bergen bied je  
Al die pracht van get heeal”



Having a nice atmosphere together with the excitement of playing volleyball made it much easier to decide the dynamic of how this activity was going to be. The conclusion was to name 4 captains who, afterward chose their team members. With already the team made Martin, one of our board members, chose who played against whom with only one condition, the first one that got to 21 won that game. Afterwards, the team that won would play against the other team that won, the same with the losing team, and so on.





There were a few times when a team had to be switched since member(s) wanted a break or had enough of it. This did not impact the dynamic of the competition since it became more about having fun than winning.

One of the highlights of this competition without a doubt was seeing how passionate some of us were, one example was that they did not have to think twice about diving into the sand to save the ball from touching it. Another one of millions was the sound of laughter, it filled the massive hall and also became contagious. In other words, it was a magical environment.

A few hours into this Vectum activity, the atmosphere was still explicit, in addition, the member who had the most energy still as well as the desire to continue playing was our board member, Piotr. His attitude made the game much more enjoyable and long-lasting.

Sadly it was our time to wrap up this amazing activity and start with our Vectum tradition; have some drinks together, as well as recap the best memories we had to this day together.

Indoor volleyball was an activity that hopefully will always be in the memories of the participants when thinking about their Vectum life and hopefully next year or even next period we can add another sports activity to this magical feeling. Stay tuned to the Vectum calendar and pray that more sports activities like this will come in the future.



# Working at a Startup with all Econometricians

By Edwin van der Vegt

Late May 2022, when I had been enrolled in the EOR master for so long that DUO didn't want to give me any more loans, it was time to find a job. Luckily for me, Florentijn Hogerwerf, a previous Econometrics student, had just started looking for current Econometrics students to hire as software engineers for his personal finance app start-up named Figy. I started working there in late June, incidentally the Monday after Members Weekend.



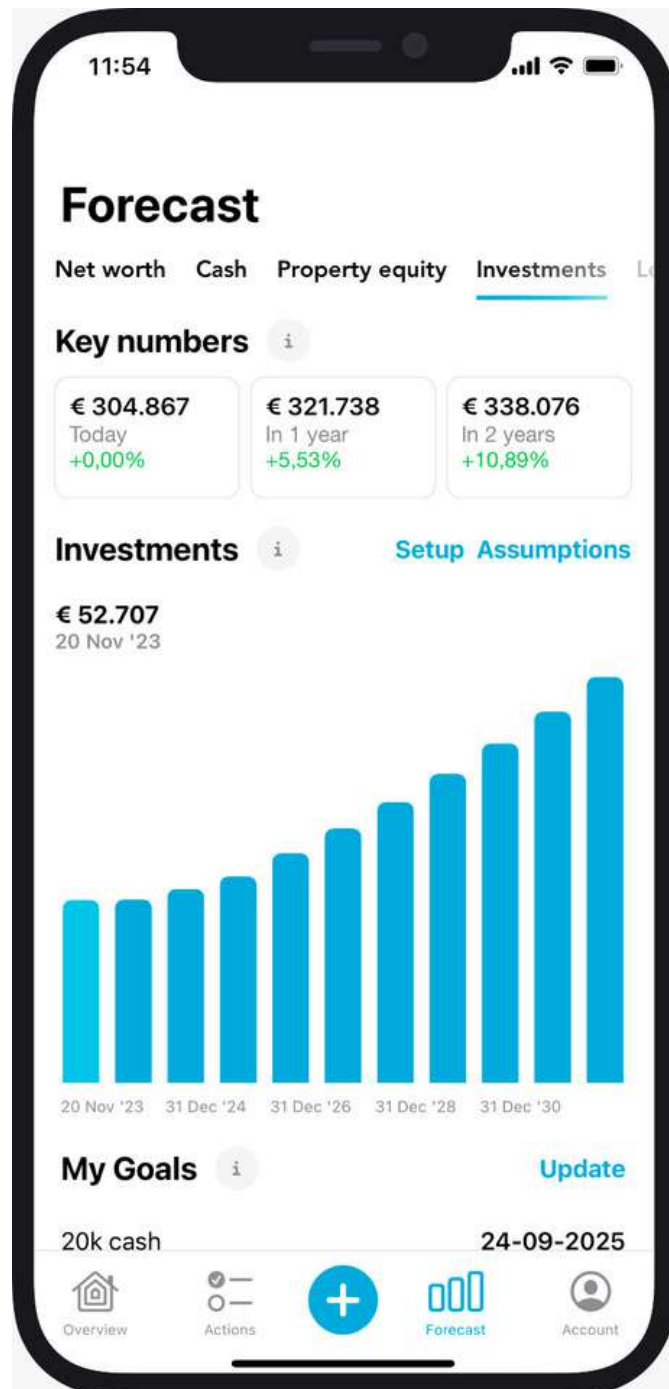
At the start, my role was to write the Android version of the app using the programming language Kotlin. Even though Kotlin is based on Java, which was not completely foreign to me, I had done everything in Python for a while at that point. So in those starting months, back when coding took longer than debugging because chat-gpt was not a thing yet, I had to first get used to Kotlin and as a lifelong Windows user also to writing on a Mac. Ended up getting used to Kotlin faster than using the Mac though, only figuring out how to right-click with two fingers a year later.





After getting used to Kotlin I started enjoying the programming work a lot (more than my uni work). In a way developing is one of the very few fields where a strategy of instant gratification works, namely by keeping the feedback loop small writing small blocks of code and immediately testing whether it works. So that was a nice realisation. What makes it even more enjoyable is that unlike sending large sums of stocks or currencies back and forth, building an app resembles a form of craftsmanship, which on top of that is also scalable. If you write the code for something as simple as a button it may not seem much at first, but in effect, you have just written something that will potentially get millions of interactions, so small things can have great impact.

Another aspect of the job that motivated me to stay working at Figy is the financial extensiveness that is at the core of the product. Whereas other personal finance apps focus on short-term cash flow planning, Figy fills a niche by catering to people who care about building wealth and want to become financially independent (at a young age). This requires a lot more complex calculations in the area of forecasting and analytics, to which I was able to apply things I learned in various OR courses, such as conceptualising and then writing algorithms that are both time and space-efficient.





# Research Lecture



By Martin Bergmann

## An improved bound for the price of anarchy for related machine scheduling

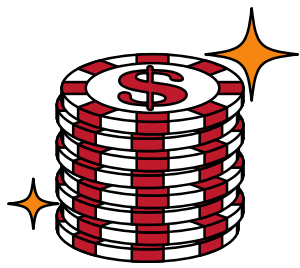
The Research Lecture quadruple of the year continues. This period, we were excited to have PhD student Arman Rouhani to present some of his current results (under the supervision of Andre Berger and Marc Schroder). Also known for his tutor position in the 2nd year class of Programming, Arman's main area of focus lies in the Operational Research and Game Theory section of this university.

Hence, for the OR lecture of this year, we have learned something about machine scheduling, the price of anarchy and how Arman was able to find an improved bound on that price of anarchy. For a little context, machine scheduling refers to a problem where we have a number of jobs and a number of machines and we need to schedule the given jobs on the machines. Depending on what one is aiming for, there are different solutions to solve the problem. In this particular problem, it was aimed to find the shortest sum of completion times and the Shortest Processing Time (SPT) algorithm was adapted. With the SPT, one looks at the job with the shortest processing time and schedules it on an available machine. Next, the goal here was to improve the Price of Anarchy (PoA). This is defined as the ratio of the worst Nash equilibrium to the best optimal solution. They were able to do so by using previous results and making some adjustments to them.

Lastly, the night ended, as is tradition, with a night at the Preuv. Arman joined us for a while as well and we could get to know him a little better on a personal level. Overall, this lecture was quite the success given the considerably high attendance.

As for the next lecture, we will be inviting a former trader that will talk about his experiences at different firms and what is important to know about trading and the interview processes.





# Casino Night

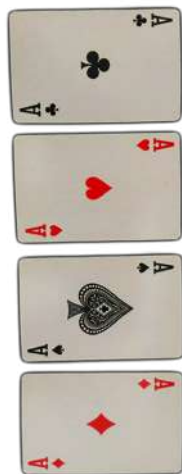


## By Manuel Baptista

On the night of 21/11/2023, at Que Pasa, Vectum's Casino Night, was hosted, an event that brought together the thrill of high-stakes games and the glamour of a night out. The bar was transformed into a hub of excitement, with guests all dressed in their best semi-formal attire trying their luck at various casino classics like Roulette, Blackjack, and Poker.



As guests entered Que Pasa, they were greeted by the perfect atmosphere for an evening of entertainment. The air buzzed with anticipation as players gathered around tables, ready to try their luck and skill against the house.



What set our Casino Night apart was the unique twist to the competition. Rather than focusing on individual victories in each game, players were encouraged to combine their winnings across all games to win a bigger prize. This innovative approach added a strategic layer to the night, as participants carefully calculated their moves to maximize their overall chip count.

As the night progressed, the competition heated up, with players strategizing and bluffing their way to success. Laughter and friendly banter filled the room, creating an atmosphere of friendship and competition.

When the final chips were counted, it was Edoardo and his team who emerged as the ultimate winner, securing the coveted prize – a Shot Roulette set. Edoardo's strategic play and luck combined to make him the chip leader by the end of the night, earning a memorable prize to take home.

Beyond the thrill of the games and the joy of victory, what made Vectum's Casino Night truly special was the sense of community and shared enjoyment. Everyone, whether they ended the night with loads or no chips, had a blast. The event succeeded in bringing people together for an unforgettable night of entertainment.

Vectum's Casino Night at Que Pasa proved to be a winning formula, combining the excitement of casino games with a unique competition format. As the night came to a close, guests left with smiles on their faces, already looking forward to the next event that Vectum had in store.



# Valentin's Exchange in sunny California

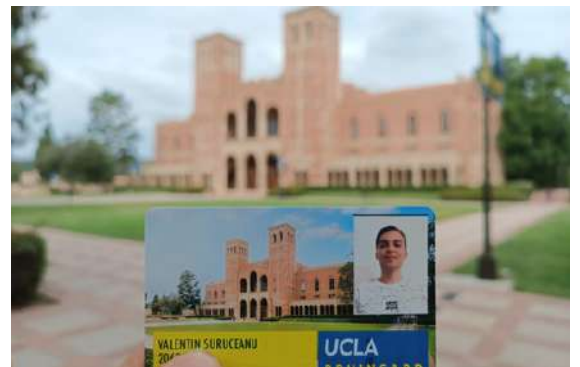
By Valentin Suruceanu

Embarking on my EOR journey in Maastricht 2.5 years ago I have frequently heard people say that the semester abroad is the best part of our bachelor's degree. Since returning home from my international adventure in late December I can wholeheartedly confirm that it is indeed the best time, BUT only if you seize it. So if you're a second-year who only recently found out where you're going or a firstie who's overwhelmed by the whole idea of exchange, my advice for you is wherever you go just make the most out of it!

Since I was in high school, I was always curious whether the American student experience is the same as we see it on the TV screen or if Hollywood is just lying to us. Thankfully, due to my high position in the ranking (#1 baby) and the international popularity of our university, I was able to find out for myself by pursuing my exchange at the University of California Los Angeles. I knew that this endeavor would be challenging but little did I know that the challenges would kick off right at home. Picture this: Mid-July, ugly weather, lightning strikes on the railway, a stranded train, a missed visa appointment. Panic mode engaged. But thanks to the grace of God and the kindness of the Amsterdam US consulate employees (I guess), a new visa slot opened up just in time, teaching me a crucial lesson—want a visa? START EARLY.

Not too long after that, I was on my way to the city of angels. After enjoying my first intercontinental flight, waiting in line for about 2 hours for a 3-minute conversation with the customs officer I have finally set foot on American soil. Getting picked up by an Armenian Uber driver, who started speaking Russian to me upon learning that I am from Moldova, I was on my way to the beautiful UCLA campus filled with fascination about how cool the city is.

UCLA is a huge university, that educates students of different backgrounds, cultures, and interests and to convince myself of that I didn't have to look further than the apartment I was living in: The nerdy computer science guy; the motivated gym rat; the traditional frat boy and the confused exchange student, we had them all.





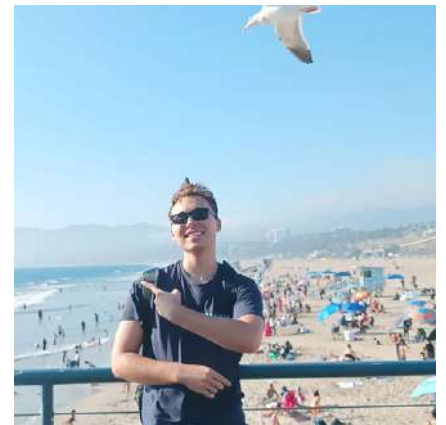


The university campus was always full of life, each week had its theme, and every day you could find something to do: engage in sports and games, attend a career counseling event, participate in a social club's event, go to a blood donation drive or watch a weekly student protest—because it's the land of the free, after all! The courses I took were a mix of challenges and joyrides. Rediscovering my passion for competitive math and diving into the world of R programming left me with skills to bring back home to Maastricht.



Navigating UCLA life meant diving into various friend groups. From fellow exchange students as eager to travel as me, sports enthusiasts that I would join for basketball and American football games (I still don't really get the rules of that sport but ok), to more laid-back people who enjoyed a board game night once in a while. I even joined a squad of Romanians there with whom we would plan Karaoke nights, despite the frustration of other people who didn't speak our language or gather up to cook traditional dishes and feed the entire apartment floor. Oh, and celebrating my 21st birthday in the American style was a wild ride (wink, wink).

One thing that is a must-do if you are in the sunny state of California is swimming in the Pacific Ocean. There are so many beautiful beaches in LA and I was fortunate to see some of the most famous ones. In Venice Beach, I saw the famous outdoor gyms where all the LA big guys flex their muscles, and I even found the place where they shot the scenes from the Barbie movie. My favorite one has to be Santa Monica Beach though with the fun and joyful Santa Monica Pier, those who played GTA V know what I'm talking about, also it's a nice place to go on a date (just saying :)).



My first proper Halloween was a spectacle, with costumed students owning the streets for multiple days in a row, themed parties, creative decorations, and many horror movies watched. That's also when we visited the famous Universal Studios for their annual Halloween Horror Nights. Spooky rides and haunted houses? Yes please! Ah also, guess who I was dressed up as.



Then came Thanksgiving—an American feast! Friendsgiving with roommates, neighbors, and friends, and a courageous attempt at cooking the traditional turkey, thankfully no one got food poisoning at the end of it so we're good. Lots of good food, good vibes, and many Polaroids for my memory board. A twist: I got the taste of an authentic Thanksgiving at one of my roommates in San Diego where his family welcomed me warmly. Additionally, they toured the city of surfers with me in their new Tesla – what a weekend.







One city I really wanted to visit was San Francisco, and as fate intervened, I met up with Vectum's one and only Martin Bergmann there. Imagine this: two Maastricht boys storming the Bay Area in their Vectum Board Hoodies. We rode the city's famous cable cars, admired the sea lion colony at Pier 39, toured the infamous Alcatraz prison island, and ended the day with a majestic photoshoot at the Golden Gate Bridge and a sunset by the ocean. I would like to thank my skilled tour guide once again for that adventurous day.



A place I really liked in LA was the Griffith Observatory, known for its amazing landscape of the city, the fascinating planetarium, and the fact that plenty of famous movies like The Terminator or Jurassic Park were shot there. And of course, no LA trip comes complete without a visit to Hollywood. The famous boulevard, the star-studded sidewalks on the Walk of Fame, the souvenir stores galore, and of course the Hollywood sign - admittedly, lots of Instagram content.



Eventually, all good things must come to an end, so the final exams week came faster than we wanted it to, and once again I convinced myself that UCLA is a place of tradition. One sacred tradition is that every day, over the course of that week, at 12am sharp, students open their windows and scream at the top of their lungs, letting everyone know that they are ready to take that final the next day. That week also ends with the tradition Undy Run, where, you guessed it, students run around the campus in their underwear celebrating their academic freedom from exams. After that, I was officially done. I spent my last few days in LA meeting up with all the friends I made and saying goodbyes. When I was at the airport about to board my flight home, I was reminiscing about all the beautiful memories that I had made and while I was a little sad that it was ending, I was happy to realize that I made the most out of my exchange!



# Sinterklaas Party



By Aashia Chanana

Prepare yourself for a festive journey into the heart of Dutch tradition with Sinterklaas, a beloved holiday that sets the stage for joy and merriment! Celebrated annually on December 5th and 6th, Sinterklaas precedes the modern-day celebration of Christmas in many Western countries. This cultural extravaganza involves the exchange of gifts, indulging in delightful food and drink, and the harmonious singing of traditional Sinterklaas songs.



The legend of Sinterklaas traces back to the 1600s, weaving a tale of a bishop who lived in Turkey during the 4th century. Known for his extraordinary generosity and kindness to children, this benevolent figure forms the core of the Sinterklaas narrative. According to the legend, Sinterklaas embarks on an annual journey from Spain to the Netherlands, leaving thoughtful gifts for children in their shoes. Sinterklaas has become an indispensable and cherished part of Dutch culture, symbolizing the spirit of giving and togetherness during the holiday season.

Now, fasten your seatbelts as we transport you to the Sinterklaas Party hosted by Vectum on November 28 at Que Pasa, Maastricht. The first floor of this vibrant venue was magically transformed into the ultimate playground for holiday revelry. The occasion presented an opportunity for everyone to snag a present from Vectum's own Sinterklaas, Martin, in a setting brimming with laughter, creativity, and spirited competition.



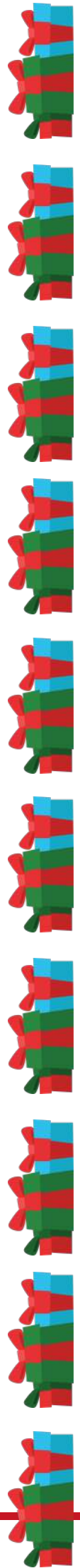




Imagine engaging in lively games like pepernoten tossing, gingerbread house crafting, and a side-splitting gift-wrapping contest where teams of five had to tackle the challenge using only one hand each. Laughter and cheers filled the air as participants showcased their skills, not just fueled by the thrill of the games but also the prospect of winning a coveted present.

The real showstopper of the evening was Vectum's inventive take on the White Elephant game. A big circle, a roll of the die, and the chance to grab, steal, or swap gifts created an electric atmosphere. The gifts ranged from fuzzy Christmas socks and soap bubbles to metal puzzles, garlands, handcuffs, shot glass tic-tac-toe, intriguing board games, and puzzles.

As the evening concluded on a high note, each of us went home not just with a unique gift but with a heart full of festive cheer, embodying the true essence of Sinterklaas. Sinterklaas would undoubtedly approve!



# Ice Skating at Vrijthof

By **Evlogia Stefanidhi**

Magisch Maastricht is an enchanting and festive attraction that transforms the city of Maastricht into a winter wonderland during the holiday season. This annual event brings a magical atmosphere to the heart of the city, captivating locals and visitors alike with its festive charm. For students, it is a perfect distraction from the stress of the upcoming exams. Vectum also took part in the festive atmosphere which resulted in an unforgettable night.

The air was cold, and you could hear the sound of skates gliding over the ice. We were all bundled up in scarves and mittens, just having a blast skating around the rink together. The sound of blades on the ice felt like music, kicking off an awesome night.

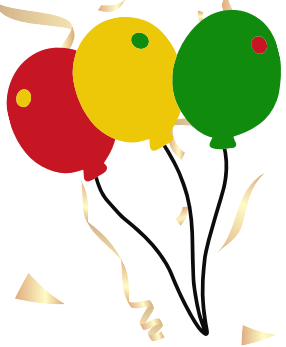
Around us, the smell of hot gluh wine and warm Chocomel was everywhere, inviting us to warm our hands and enjoy the moment. The cozy atmosphere made it easy for us to chat and connect with each other, surrounded by the magic of the season. Sipping on those hot drinks, we felt all warm and relaxed.

After ice skating, we hopped on the Ferris wheel, giving us incredible views of Maastricht decorated in twinkling Christmas lights. Later on, we all joined each other for some warm drinks to warm our hands and souls.

Sure, we were there to show off (or not) our skating skills, but it was about more than that. It was about creating awesome memories during our student days. Friendships grew, and Magisch Maastricht turned out to be the perfect spot for our association to hang out and soak up the winter magic.







# Carnaval Costume Ideas

By **Lotte van Gool**

It's that time of the year again when the streets come alive with laughter, music, and a kaleidoscope of colors – carnival season! Whether you're a seasoned carnival-goer or a first-timer, it's the perfect opportunity to ditch the ordinary and dive into a world of creativity. This year, let's explore some unique and fun costume ideas that will make you stand out in the carnival crowds. These are perfect for some last minute costume ideas.

## **Nerd Chic**

Embrace your inner econometrics geek with a Nerd Chic costume. Oversized glasses, suspenders, and a quirky scientific calculator will give you that intellectual flair. Carry a stack of books, and you're ready to showcase the brainy side of your life.



## **Retro Revival**

Take a trip back in time with a retro-inspired costume. Whether you're channeling the '20s flapper style, the psychedelic '60s flower power, or the disco fever of the '70s, raid thrift stores for funky accessories and bold patterns to create a throwback look that's sure to turn heads.



## **Punny Pairs**

The perfect costumes for you and your friends.

**"Cereal Killer"**: A humorous twist on crime-fighting duos, one person dresses as a cereal box and the other as an assassin with toy weapons. This cereal-ously funny costume is sure to bring laughs!

**"Gold Digger"**: Strike gold at the carnival dressed as a miner with a shovel and gold-colored clothes and accessories. A golden opportunity for a witty costume!

**"Holy Cow"**: Create a costume miracle dressed as a cow and a halo on your head. It's a punny take on a sacred surprise! Just take a white outfit and draw black spots all over it.

**"Party Animals"**: Let the festivities roar with all your friends dressed up as different animals with party hats and other party necessities. It's a wild and whimsical combination that screams "party time"!

**"Breadwinner"**: Want to see what the future holds for you as an econometrician? Simply take a loaf of bread and a trophy or medal and become the breadwinner for the day! It's a play on words that's sure to bring in the dough! This super easy costume is perfect for a last minute costume idea.

**"Spice Girls"**: Spice up your carnival with a group costume inspired by the iconic Spice Girls. Each person dresses as a different cooking spice, bringing a flavorful twist to the celebration. Just take some oversized t-shirt and write some names of spices across them and you are ready to go.



### Nostalgic Nod

Take a trip down memory lane with a costume inspired by a nostalgic favorite from your childhood. Whether it's the Teletubbies, Dora the Explorer, or a classic video game character, embrace the nostalgia and transport yourself and others back to a simpler time.

### Fantasy Enchantments

Embrace the allure of fantasy with enchanting costumes like pirates, fairies, or mystical creatures. Unleash your inner buccaneer with a pirate costume adorned with eye patches, tricorne hats, and billowy shirts. Alternatively, embrace the ethereal beauty of fairies with wings, flowing dresses, and a sprinkle of glitter. These fantastical ensembles add a touch of magic to the carnival celebration, allowing you to become a character from a storybook for the day.



### Vibrant carnival colors

Embrace the spirit of carnival with a simple and bold costume featuring the classic carnival colors of red, yellow, and green. Mix and match vibrant pieces in these hues to create a cheerful ensemble that radiates the energy and liveliness of the carnival celebration. Whether it's a colorful hat, accessories, or a simple, tri-colored outfit, let the bold carnival colors speak for themselves as you join the festivities.

Carnival is the perfect occasion to let your creativity run wild, and with these pun-tastic and imaginative costume ideas, you're sure to make a lasting impression at this year's carnival celebration. So, gather your fellow students, unleash your wit, and get ready for a carnival experience like no other!

# carnaval



## Simple Valentine's Night Dinner

Hey lovebirds! Valentine's Day is approaching, and if the idea of slaving away in the kitchen scares you more than a horror movie marathon, fear not! We've got recipes so easy you'll wonder why you even doubted your culinary skills!

Turn your kitchen into a romantic restaurant without breaking a sweat. Get ready to impress your special someone with flavors that say, "I love you, and I didn't burn the pasta this time!"



### APPETIZER

#### Caprese Skewers with Balsamic Glaze

#### Ingredients:

Fresh mozzarella balls  
Cherry tomatoes  
Fresh basil leaves  
Balsamic glaze  
Olive oil  
Salt and pepper to taste

#### Instructions:

Thread mozzarella, basil, and tomatoes onto toothpicks. It's like edible arts and crafts! Place them on a plate, and give them a little drizzle dance of balsamic glaze and olive oil.

Add a dash of salt and pepper – the seasoning superheroes of every kitchen. Voilà! You just made a fancy appetizer without breaking a sweat.







## MAIN COURSE



### Creamy Garlic Parmesan Pasta

#### Ingredients:

- 8 oz fettuccine pasta
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 1 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- Salt and black pepper to taste
- Fresh parsley for garnish

#### Instructions:

Cook the pasta like you cook your relationships – follow the instructions!  
Melt butter, and add garlic – the aromatic equivalent of a love letter.  
Pour in the cream, sprinkle that Parmesan-like confetti, and stir until creamy.  
Season it with a dash of salt and pepper – just like seasoning your relationship with laughter.  
Toss the pasta into this saucy love affair. Garnish with parsley for that Instagram-worthy finish.





## DESSERT



### Chocolate Covered Strawberries

#### Ingredients:

- Fresh strawberries
- Dark or milk chocolate chips
- White chocolate chips (optional for drizzling)
- Assorted toppings (chopped nuts, coconut flakes, or sprinkles)



#### Instructions:

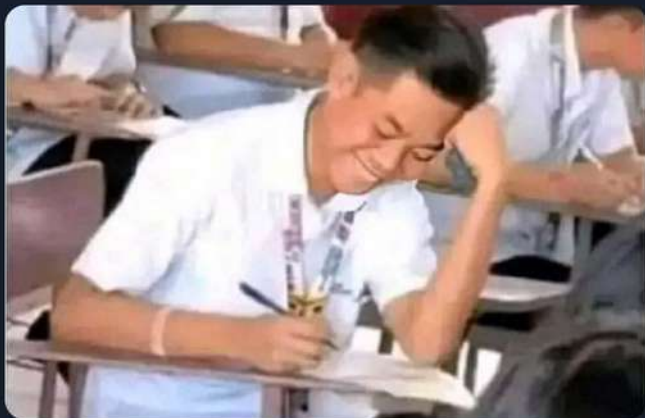
- Melt chocolate – it's like giving your strawberries a warm chocolate hug.
- Dip strawberries like you're taking a sweet bath in a chocolate fountain.
- Place them on a tray and let your creativity run wild with toppings – it's a strawberry fashion show!
- Let them cool. You just made a dessert as sweet as your love.

Now that you're armed with these foolproof recipes, conquer the kitchen! Remember, the key ingredient is love, but a sprinkle of humor and a dash of simplicity never hurt. Cheers to a Valentine's Day dinner with you both saying, "Wow, I can't believe we made that!" Happy cooking and even happier Valentine's Day!



# A nerd's meme vault

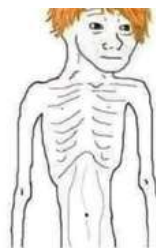
me during an exam laughing at my own answers:



you are



IG: @\_the\_grapher\_



\* month later\*



Just do one pushup  
Whenever you FORGET TO ADD  
+C WHEN  
INTEGRATING



WTF

**My kidnappers returning me back after listening for 2 hours to me talk about different ways to know if a sequence is convergent**



**When you integrate by parts but the resulting integral has to also be done by parts**





# Greater than Sudoku

## HOW TO

Place a digit from 1 to 9 in each empty cell so that each row, each column and each 3x3 block contains all the digits from 1 to 9. In addition, the symbols between cells tell you if the digit in a cell is larger (>) or smaller (<) than the digit next to it.

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   | > |   |   | > | 8 | > | 4 |
|   | ^ | ^ |   | v |   |   |   |
|   | 6 | 8 | > | < |   | > |   |
| ^ |   |   |   | > |   | ^ |   |
|   | v |   |   | ^ |   | v | ^ |
|   |   |   |   | 6 | 4 |   | 7 |
|   |   | > | 2 |   | 1 |   |   |
|   |   |   |   | ^ | v |   | v |
| 6 | > | 5 | 7 |   |   | < | < |
|   | < |   | > |   |   |   | v |
|   | v | v |   | ^ | ^ |   |   |
|   |   | < |   |   | < | 3 | 8 |
|   |   |   |   | v |   |   | v |
| 5 |   | 1 |   |   |   |   |   |

Send in your solution to [secretary@vectum-maastricht.nl](mailto:secretary@vectum-maastricht.nl) or DM us on instagram ([vectum.maastricht](https://www.instagram.com/vectum.maastricht))

The first person to send in the correct solution will receive a little present from Vectum!

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