



Per **vectum**

*Welcome
little ones!*



FEATURING

- Meet the board and our committees!
 - Vectum beyond econometrics
 - Interview with Alumni
-



Belastingdienst

Robin

Data custodian/Privacy engineer

This is Robin. Data custodian at the Dutch tax administration.

He is given the room to develop from Data custodian to Privacy engineer.

Do you want to work on the tax administration of the future together with Robin? Go to <https://werken.belastingdienst.nl/expertises/data-en-analyse>.

His Story

‘After my studies in computer science, I started working for a small publisher where I mainly did web development. Over time I was given more and more different tasks, like writing quotations. I found that I actually enjoyed having a wider range of tasks because it allowed me to grow continuously. So, when I started looking for a new challenge, this breadth in activities became an important prerequisite for me.’

New programming challenges

I found that new challenge at the Tax Administration where I have been working for 12.5 years now. I applied as a developer and since there was a large demand for COBOL-programmers I started working with COBOL, which I greatly enjoyed doing for a number of years. Among other things, I worked on the Tax Administration’s first data warehouse on the mainframe, where data would be stored in Db2. In addition, I have worked on large projects like the pre-filled tax returns and the Enterprise Data Warehouse (EDW) where I retrained as a SAS programmer. Later I moved on to the position of Build coordinator; in this role, I gained a lot of soft skills.

On top of current developments

Right now, I work in the Data Fundamentals & Analytics department. As a Data custodian, I create the right conditions and environment to make sure everyone who needs to work with data – the Data scientists, Data-analysts, and analytical programmers – can keep doing their jobs. In this position, I often work with the data steward who maintains contact with the internal client. Our field is very up-to-date and constantly developing. Consider, for example, the new privacy regulations; these introduced a lot of new challenges for us. This is exactly what makes working at Data Fundamentals & Analytics so rewarding.



Belastingdienst

From Data custodian to Privacy engineer

At the moment I am developing myself from Data custodian to Privacy engineer. To make this step I am given plenty of space and time to follow extra courses and study for myself. The development opportunities at the Tax Administration are particularly good; you receive a personal education budget and sometimes there is also a department budget that is used to keep the knowledge and skills of people department-wide up to date.

As a Privacy engineer, I will create awareness about how to handle data securely. That means a lot of discussing and sharing my knowledge through presentations. This can be quite complex since you might occasionally encounter some healthy resistance. The Data scientists of course just want to do their jobs without being inhibited too much by legislation, but we carry a large responsibility.

New programming challenges

When I started working at Data Fundamentals & Analytics, I had to undergo an assessment. This assessment clearly showed that I constantly need to be challenged to do my job well. Fortunately, Data Fundamentals & Analytics provides exactly the right type of environment for people like me. The freedom to develop yourself, the large quantities of data, and the responsibilities that they come with are the ingredients that keep working at the Tax Administration interesting for me.

Quotes:

- ‘At the Tax Administration, you get a lot of freedom to shape your own career.’
- ‘As a Data custodian, I have a wide range of tasks and a lot of responsibility.’

PerVectum

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Editor in Chief
Kristina Dimitrova

Co-editors in Chief
Paulina Moody
Alexandra Lazar

Co-editors &
graphic design
Marie Corillon
Emil Dotchev

Co-editor
Aashia Chanana

Vectum
P.O.Box 616
6200 MD
Maastricht

Visiting Address
Tapijnkazerne 11
Room I 2.002
6211 ME Maastricht

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For more info or questions:
<https://vectum-maastricht.nl>
secretary@vectum-maastricht.nl

Word of The President



Dear reader,

After a summer filled with QR-code traveling, Olympic games, and heavy rainfall, the time has come to get back to university reality. I warmly welcome our new and returning members to our beloved picturesque town in the south of the Netherlands. Additionally, I hereby proudly present the first '21/'22 edition of our magazine, the PerVectum!

More than three years ago, I entered the SBE auditorium to attend my very first Linear Algebra tutorial. I still remember how I felt incredibly small being surrounded by all these unknown faces and looking up to this immensely high ceiling. Like no other, I understand that the change from high school to university can be overwhelming. Perhaps change in general is a situation humans cannot easily deal with and, therefore, has always been a theme in literature. In Shelly's famous novel *Frankenstein*, she mentions that "*Nothing is so painful to the human mind as a great and sudden change.*" Going to university may not be a sudden change, but it is certainly a great and important switch in your life.

To all new first years, I want to emphasise that all 'oldies' have been there. We all struggled with mathematical proving, spent hours and hours in the library, and felt uncertain about exam results. But most importantly, we are all still here!

As a study association, Vectum is always willing to help you to get the best out of your academic life. For instance, you can attend our extra tutorials where all your questions will be answered. Also, joining our social events allows you to build a network with fellow econometricians. I am sure that they are always willing to give advice.

Our returning members should know how university life works by now. However, this year is a year of changes, and this also affects you. After more than a year of Zoom classes, we are finally able to go to the faculty again. Maybe you are a second-year student, and have only been a couple of times to the SBE in real life and do not really know that many people in Maastricht. Or you are a final-year student and are very close to entering a new phase of your life: entering the job market. Whatever change you are facing this year, remember that Vectum is always there to support our members!

A new academic year implies a new board year for Vectum. I would like to seize this opportunity to thank the previous board for their hard work in an unfavourable year. You proved that last year was a year of opportunities instead of restrictions. My board members and I admire your creativity to make the best out of a bad situation. I would also like to express my gratitude towards last year's active members, the KE department, and the board of advice.

The 27th board of Vectum consists of Joris, Kristina, Tobias, Dave, and me. Joris is responsible for all external activities and company contacts. Kristina, the secretary of the board, made this PerVectum and promotes all our events via mailings and our social media channels. Tobias is Vectum's financial manager and takes care of the extra tutorials. Dave has the honour to make all our social events – ranging from Oktoberfest to Members Weekend – a blast! Last, I oversee all board processes and represent our association nationally. Indeed, for the first time in Vectum history, our board consists of five members. A change that reflects Vectum's growth and ambitions for the future.

1.5 years ago, our lives changed completely and Vectum found itself organising virtual events. Even though these were the best replacement possible, they can never substitute the in-person activities. Slowly life is opening up again. In spite of all the restrictions, I am more than happy to see everyone in person. However, I want to stress that the pandemic is unfortunately not over yet. Therefore, I strongly encourage you to get vaccinated and get tested if you feel unwell. If everyone acts responsibly, Vectum will be able to organise activities that we all love.

Period 1 is over, and we all got to enjoy these beloved Vectum activities. We started with the Welcome Activity at Sint-Pietersberg and the First-and-Second-Year Weekend. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, we could not organise a weekend away but rather stayed in Maastricht. Nevertheless, the weekend was a great success, and I am sure that all first-years quickly felt at home. Our second event led us to a snooker centre where we enjoyed some good play of pool. Next, we had the scavenger hunt with challenges that ranged from buying one single grape to taking a swim in the Maas. I admire the enthusiasm of all participants! In the fourth week, Marc Schröder gave a lecture that combined topics from Operations Research and Game Theory. Week 6 was the sportiest week of the block. On Tuesday we played (indoor) beach sports and on Thursday we went to Utrecht to compete against all other EOR associations during the LEST. Vectum even became the runner-up in both recreational and competitive football tournaments. The sports-and-games pentathlon consisted of easy-going games, like bubble football and musical chairs. The perfect tournament for the not-so-sporty econometrician. However, my personal highlight of this period was the Oktoberfest, a Vectum classic. It was amazing to see you all in lederhosen and dirndls. If this all sounds like you want to go back to these events, have a look at our pictures in the Facebook group or read the articles in this PerVectum.

Vectum has always done its utmost best to give back to the EOR community. Therefore, I am proud that our activities are diverse – from sports to drinks to academic – and that low participation fees are asked. This ensures that our events are accessible for everyone.

Naturally, this remains one of this year's board objectives. Our board year will be characterised by several changes: Covid recovery, a new agreement with SCOPE, more board members, etc. The board is ready to cope with all challenges and lead Vectum through all these changes, whilst remaining our Vectum traditions.

Even though Shelley's perception of change is pessimistic, change may also reflect development and growth. I wish you, dear reader, a year where you can grow both professionally and personally. Cheers to an amazing Vectum year!

Yours truthfully,



Amber Rerimassie
27th President of Vectum

Meet the vectum

Board for 2021-2022

To help you get to know the Vectum board a little better, we give you a sneak peek into their lives. To spice it up a bit, the section "Truth or Lie" contains one truth and two lies for each of the boardies. It is your task to find out which are the true and which are the false statements about them!

And here's how to do it:

- count the number of red letters in each statement
- find the letters whose alphabetical order corresponds to each of the counts
- the letters you will uncover from the true statements form a secret word

When you find the secret word, you know you've found the truths about our board members!

To take you a step closer to solving the mystery, there's a cheeky little hint for you!

The first letter of the secret word is hiding in the heading:

- count all the letters (without the numbers) in the heading and add 1
- find the letter whose alphabetical order corresponds to this count
- Start solving the puzzle!

President: Amber Rerimassie

What are you for Vectum?

I am the President of the board. This means that I oversee all board activities, represent our association towards external parties and chair the board meetings and members assemblies. Of course, I am also willing to help my boardies if they need me!

What is Vectum for you?

I have been involved in Vectum since the very beginning of my university life.

What's your Favourite Vectum activity so far?

Pool party

If Vectum could organise any activity, irrespective of time/resources/restrictions, what should it be?

A four-week holiday to New Zealand



Truth or Lie?

1. I was **in** NYC during the **northeast** blackout of 2003
2. I was in NYC at the **beginning** of the Covid-19 pandemic and **could** not come **back** to the Netherlands for three months
3. I was in NYC when hurricane **Sandy** brought flooding and high winds

The funniest word you can think of?
przewalskipaard

The most depressing meal you've eaten?
Any spicy meal

Trick or treat?
Treat

Introvert or extrovert?
Introvert

Vice President: Joris Booij-Liewes

What are you for Vectum?

I am the Vice President of Vectum. I manage the external relationships with companies

What is Vectum for you?

A place where vibes and teamwork come together

If you're playing strip poker (and losing), which piece of clothing would you take off first?

Anything but my socks, I love warm feet

If the board was fighting for survival (e.g. on a deserted island w/ no food), who'd be eaten first and why?

Amber, she'd get sick after 1 day

Secretary: Kristina Dimitrova

What are you for Vectum?

I am the Secretary & PR Coordinator of Vectum. I am the Editor in Chief of our quarterly magazine the PerVectum. I am also Vectum's private photographer. My greatest responsibility, however, is to regularly annoy y'all through various channels ;)

What is Vectum for you?

The epicenter of my Maassie life. I've come to love not only the people around but also the association itself.

Most awkward thing that happens to you on a regular basis?

Randomly stare at people without noticing and they start smiling at me

Most useless talent you have?

Move my ears



Truth or Lie?

1. I can do a backflip
2. I love pineapple on pizza
3. I got chased by a hippo

Your greatest fear?

Eichler's lectures

Weird food combination that you really enjoy?

A peanut butter tuna sandwich

If you could know the absolute and total truth to one question, what question would you ask?

Waarom zijn bananen krom?



Truth or Lie?

1. Friends and I once broke into a house near my highschool
2. Both my mum and I have trained artistic gymnastics
3. I have practiced competitive eating

Never have you ever?

Decently chugged a beer

Cuttest pick-up line you can think of?

Hey, you're pretty and I'm cute. Together we'd be Pretty Cute ;)

Ridiculous thing you have tricked someone into believing?

Cucumbers are healthier when yellow

Treasurer: Tobias Breuer

What are you for Vectum?

I am the Treasurer of Vectum. I handle the bookkeeping, make budgets, make sure we don't spend too much or too little

What is Vectum for you?

Studying in Maastricht would be boring without Vectum. It's a great social group!

What bit of trivia do you know that is very interesting but also very useless?

Mantis shrimp have 2 little fists, and when they punch they hit so hard that the shock wave literally creates vacuum bubbles, which when collapsing, create even more force. The force of getting whacked by a mantis shrimp is not unlike getting hit by a .22 caliber bullet.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F5FEj9U-CJM> (it's worth a watch and it's pretty funny)

Internal Affairs Coordinator:

Dave Croes

What are you for Vectum?

I am the Internal Affairs Coordinator.

What is Vectum for you?

My gateway drug to higher-up positions in actually important boards.

How many siblings do you have?

$$e^{i\pi} + 1$$

What should the mascot of Vectum be?

Starfish. Fits with the star shape (of Vectum's logo) and our current president

If you were a ghost and could possess people, what would you make them do?

Like me on Tinder :(



Truth or Lie?

1. I worked at PostNL over the last summers
2. I went to Canada for a year in high school
3. For three years I was the only one in my student house that cleaned anything.

What secret conspiracy would you like to start?

Replace the moon with actual cheese

You in a sentence?

Someone who looks younger and more well-behaved than he is.

Best food in the frituur?

Oreos



Truth or Lie?

1. I took multiple dancing lessons as a kid
2. Shrek 2 is my favorite movie of all time
3. Dave is actually just the short form of David, but I dislike that name so I don't tell anyone

What is your spiritual animal?

Platypus. They look like a mistake of God but everybody loves them still.

What would a world populated by clones of you be like?

Really depressed

Would you rather fight or flight?

Roll over and accept death

Meet the Committees 2021-2022

The Activities Committee



From left to right: Arman Behbood, Wout Keulen, Asem Nagata, Dave Croes, Merle Praum, Jonathan Mehlan, Tobias Breuer, Valentin Suruceanu

The External Affairs Committee



From left to right: Tobias Schnabel, Caron Soomers, Cedric Pots, Joris Booij-Liewes, Zoë Willers, Filip Hoenjet

The PR Committee



From left to right: Marie Corillon, Paulina Moody, Emil Dotchev, Alexandra Lazar, Kristina Dimitrova, Aashia Chanana

The Ski Trip Committee



From left to right: Barbora Rakovanová, Chalisa Mendini, Amber Rerimassie, Dave Croes, Bjorn van Wijk, Quinn Cuijpers

A warm Welcome to all of our new active members!!

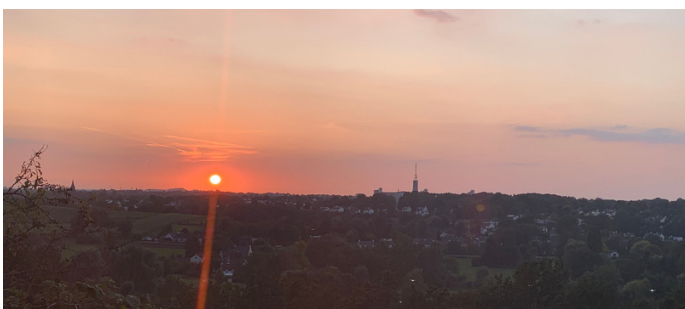
Welcome activity

By Paulina Moody

To kick off the year, Vectum members from all years gathered at Sint Pietersberg to celebrate the beginning of the new academic year with the Welcome Activity. Separated into groups we competed against each other in several different games where we could prove that we are not just made to study. The shot glass race showed how strong some people's teeth are and how many shot glasses can be broken with them. The jeu de boules and the bedsheet volleyball proved that we are no physics students, and that we maybe should revisit the concepts of strength and gravity. The circle name game showed how pronouncing some of our names is harder than remembering any theorem and although we have so many math courses, some people still did not know how an eight looks like during the potato run.



The firsties got the opportunity to meet many of their classmates and some more experienced econometrics students, who could give them already some tips and tricks for uni survival. Not only the first years got to see who was in their year, but a lot of second years also met new faces from their year for the first time. Although the second years have already survived a year, surprisingly many of them did not know each other or many faces were finally seen in real life and not just through a screen. Additionally, some poor third years were not able to go on their exchange, so they had the honor to participate in our activities.



First- and Second-Year Weekend

By Paulina Moody

After the warm welcoming we had on Tuesday, we got to spend even more time with each other at the First- and Second-Year Weekend. From Friday to Sunday, we got to see that being an econometrics student is not only about sitting at our desks.

Kicking off the weekend with an eventful Hap en Stap we got to show a lot of our skills while eating some delicious and random snacks, like Amel's carrots. Apart from snacking, we got to show our creative skills with the egg challenge, and although we are not engineers, most of the constructions brought the eggs safely down from the city wall. Additionally, a lot of us were introduced to the go to part game Flunkyball and we experienced how sparkling water is really not the drink you want to chug at future parties. Unfortunately, we also found out that none of us will ever be a frisbee professional but maybe some magic careers can still be pursued after the tricks seen during the crazy 88 challenges. After some fun games and challenges, the first round of competitions ended with some drinks and card games at Basilika.



Saturday morning all competitive spirits were seen during the city game, where we also got to see a lot, like a lot, but really, almost every stone in our beloved Maastricht. To make our bodies even more tired, as running kilometers through the city was not enough, our inner monkeys were shown at the bouldering center. Our expert Jonathan was the example to follow, but in some cases, we prefer relying on the brains for success as we cannot all become professional boulderers. These brains were then used in the evening for the enriching Kahoot. We even learned about the amazing looks of Dave's feet, and how beautiful our president Amber was as a fetus. The night went on with many quizzes and table games, but at the end we were physically and mentally completely exhausted.



On Sunday only the survivors were seen at the picnic in the park. Although not everyone looked completely alive, we all knew this was a sign of an amazing start of the year and we were all looking forward to more activities with all our new Vectum friends.

Pool Tournament

By Emil Dotchev

The moment we received an invitation to enjoy the smell of pool tables with big long sticks and hard balls provided by Vectum, it was clear that this would be an amazing event. Indeed, econometricians flocked for the opportunity of wielding a pool stick, maybe because it made them feel like a jedi from Star Wars or they were just fond of sword fights.

Anyways, as in most games, some attention also had to be drawn to the balls and this one was no exception. With 16 balls in total, all you had to do was send them one by one to one of the 6 holes (just not the white ball, that is the privileged one) and the black ball is as always for last (and the right hole had to be hit!).



With the game rules clear, let's talk about the tournament. After everybody coupled up and started playing, it was evident that there were different strategies at play - some people helped their partner, some tried to sabotage them to make the game more interesting. However, at the end of the first round it turned out the tournament was based on 1v1 eliminations and sadly not all strategies accounted for that, so many couples had to begrudgingly accept defeat. Still, everyone continued playing and had lots of fun but at the end of the day there could only be one winner. To the surprise of everyone it were two firsties who proved they knew how to use their sticks the best - congrats to Aidan & Constantin!

With the end of a successful tournament, we headed to the Preuverij for some drinks which wrapped up a very fun evening.



Scavenger Hunt

By Aashia Chanana



The Scavenger Hunt is a staple of Vectum Activities, and for a good reason! It's a long-lasting tradition for econometricians to rave the streets of Maastricht and terrorize the city for an evening.

The rules were simple; we were divided into several teams of 5-7 members and each team was given 88 tasks which included the typical skinny dipping in the Maas and the chubby bunny challenge, along with some others like eating a spoonful of cinnamon, moonwalking along the Sint Servaasbrug, pretending to have a huge loud break up in public and many more. The craziest task indeed was to shave our head (or eyebrows), but nobody was wild enough to do that for 50 points.

It was an amazing experience to get teamed up with a bunch of students from different years and run around the streets of Maastricht! I tried my German skills while asking a random German guy where the Red Light District was, and I danced with my team in front of Complex while everyone from the terrace nearby was just staring at us mad people. My team did not even come close to winning because apparently, we weren't crazy enough like Joris, Marie, Pieter, Jonathan, and Zafer who won this year's Scavenger Hunt.

After some very wild activities, we headed to D'n Hiemel for some free drinks paid for by Vectum, because of course, our Treasurer Tobi loves us, just like the whole board.



Research Lecture

By Marie Corillon

Network Routing: from Static to Dynamic Games

Each period, Vectum is honoured to host a guest lecture given by an E&OR professor, tutor, or PhD student, showing us new insights and applications of our studies. This year's lecture series kicked off with network routing: from static to dynamic games, given by Marc Schröder, assistant professor at UM, and former Vectum member.

This topic explores nothing less than the famous shortest path problem, an operation research problem that E&OR students of all years have encountered. More specifically, taking an algorithmic game theory approach to how traffic users make their decisions.



Marc first presented static routing games. Drivers are the players of the game, and it is assumed that they all know the routes, as well as the total number of other drivers.



Their travel times are determined not only by their choice of routes, but also by the other drivers' choices. That is, the cost of a certain route will vary with the number of drivers choosing it. Those types of games are characterised by a directed graph, including origin and destination vertices o and d , a demand representing infinitely many users, and a linear cost function for each edge. In this part, we explored new concepts, such as the price of anarchy, which is the cool name given to the measure of deterioration in the efficiency of a system due to agents acting selfishly.

We then moved on to dynamic routing games, which add a time dimension to the situation presented earlier. These are therefore characterised by a directed graph, again including origin and destination vertices, but also a constant inflow rate of drivers, as well as capacities and travel times for each edge.

We would like to thank Marc Schröder for fitting us into his schedule to enlighten our members on his field of research.



Oktoberfest

By Marie Corillon

Finally, after two long years of waiting, Vectum's famous Oktoberfest was back on. After such a long wait, everyone was so impatient, that the activity took place as soon as October started, on Friday 1st at Het Ruweel. The girls got into their most beautiful Dirndl, while the boys sported their fanciest Lederhosen. The word of the night was undoubtedly "Bier", as Vectum hosted its legendary beer pong tournament, which was won by the power duo Leo and Constantin. However, no worries for the members who's drinking games skills weren't their strongest asset, everyone had a chance to bring a prize home: a best-dressed competition also took place. The prize went to Jonathan, wearing authentic Lederhosen.



As the night went on, beer was flowing freely, traditional German music was played, people were showing their best dance moves, and the room was shrilling with laughter.

Excited for the next edition or sad that you missed out? Fear not, Oktoberfest is a Vectum classic and is not ready to go. You now have a year to master the art of beer pong before your skills are put to the test, and attempt to become Vectum's next champion. Bis zum nächsten Jahr!



Indoor Beach Volleyball

By Emil Dotchev



With autumn setting in, many students began to miss the summer vibes. After a year of corona, one summer was just not enough time to enjoy all the relaxation and fun the beautiful season has to offer. But, Vectum came up with the perfect solution - Indoor Beach Volleyball.

For one evening we (almost) forgot about the chilly weather and instead, felt the sand beneath our feet, and we could imagine ourselves at our favourite beach. Of course, it was not only about bringing summer to Vectum, as it was a sports event after all. As one might assume, there were lots of people that were pros at the game and showcased great skills, but there were also newbies. For some it was actually the first time doing sports in quite a while but the way we played the game really made it suitable for all. The evening started with a couple of friendly games, then gradually it became more and more competitive.

The important thing was always having fun, getting your body moving, getting sand everywhere and just spending time with the fellow Vectum members.

We also got some drinks, but people mostly opted for non-alcoholic ones as they were really into the game and wanted to give their 100% (That's how sporty Vectum can be! No wonder our football players did so well at the LEST.) The evening ended with us travelling back to Maastricht and I just have to mention that I was one of the lucky few who got a presidential escort to the city, felt really VIP, and highly recommend Amber as a driver.



The Landelijke Econometristen Sport Toernooi 2021

By Kristina Dimitrova

After missing out on the traditional LEST last year, fortunately, this year the tournament took place as we all know and love – physically and far away from the chess board. The location was the familiar city of Utrecht and our entertainment was ensured by Asset | Econometrics with the invaluable support of FlowTraders, Triple A, Hypercube and Ortec Finance.

For us, the sporting adventure began in the unholy hours of October 7, 2021. While all of our fellow econometrics associations across the Netherlands were still peacefully dreaming of victory, Vectum was already hectically counting its nearly 30 participants at the Maastricht train station. Convinced in our counting skills, we were sure for someone to be missing! Suspicions of last-minute competition fear and the pressure of the already arrived train to Utrecht, however, caused us to quickly take our seats in the wagon, and leave the worry for later. Little did we know, a Vectum sleeping beauty was still enjoying the comfort of its bed!

Upon arrival at the biggest sports complex in the country, we were given our Vectum red (how thoughtful of them) LEST t-shirts and prepared our fighting spirit. With my best intention to stick with my teammates, I headed straight towards them. To my deepest regret though, I had absolutely no clue where that would be. By a heavenly coincidence, my wanderings quickly led me to finding our sleeping beauty, who, I thought, had luckily been timely found by its charming prince to wake them up from the blissful sleep!

The now complete Vectum gang represented the association in each of the three tournaments – Competitive Football and Recreational Football with one almost complete team in each, and Sports & Games with two full teams.

The latter discipline was a Sixtathlon, where the teams competed 1:1 in Mega Beerpong/Molkky, Relay, Bubble Football, Dodgeball, Knots Hockey and Multiball. The Sports & Games tournament was given a start by the two Vectum teams measuring strength with each other in Mulkky and Mega Beerpong. The former was convincingly won by the team I was part of, while the other Vectum fighters prevailed in the latter, resulting in a tie. Afterwards both teams had an unfavorable faith and sank into oblivion.



Even though both Sports & Games teams kept Vectum's losing tradition, all of our footballers left their hearts and breath on the field and ended their tournaments with the honourable runner-up position. Sad as it is, silver cups were not handed out but their theoretical existence will be kept forever in the Vectum LEST history.

The day ended with a mouth-watering BBQ and several cold beers for the exhausted competitors. Eventually, most felt Maassie calling and returned home, while the most enthusiastic went for a very cozy party in Utrecht, and some even stayed for some night entertainment.

All in all, it was a lovely day with great activities, tasty food and lots of muscle exercise. The consequences of the latter came to haunt all of the LEST heroes on the next day, where reported symptoms include, but are not limited to, loud moans when turning in bed, turtle speed when making your bed, and burning pain when using any of the affected muscle groups. Another side effect of the LEST participation, reported by an innocent observer, appeared to be the recognisable gait (known also as the LEST gait or the walk of pain).



A big thank you to Asset | Econometrics and all of the sponsors for making this fun day possible!



Vectum Beyond Econometrics

By **Alexandra Lazar**

Studying econometrics is no easy job, we all know this by now. It can get quite challenging at times and it might seem like it is taking forever to finish reading one chapter or to complete an assignment. However, we are still left with some free time for ourselves, so I'd like to ask you the following question: how are you spending your free time? Maybe getting some rest or meeting friends? Some people dedicate their time outside econometrics to their hobbies and are exceedingly good in what they are doing. To find out more about what hobbies econometrics students have, I talked to Tim Kurris, Joshua Smilde and Cedric Pots. This article is about their stories, so let's get to know them better!

Cedric Pots proves that econometricians are not only good at math, but also good at sports! All of us might go to the gym or go jogging from time to time, but he takes sports very seriously! Up until recently he played football in Under 21 of the club MVV's youth academy. Keeping up with your studies and playing football professionally sounds like a double challenge, right? Besides playing football, he also loves running and he even joined half marathons! Cedric is here to share his experience with us, I hope you will all feel motivated to take up sports as a hobby afterwards! ;)



Since I was a little boy, I've always enjoyed doing all kinds of games; from playing football, tennis, Ping-Pong, basketball you name it. When I was 6 years old, I started playing football at the local football club here in Maastricht, VV Scharn. After a few months playing for VV Scharn I got scouted by MVV, the professional football club in Maastricht and I played there till the age of 19. Last May I decided to quit playing at MVV to have more time for other social activities, study and for example joining Sigma Investments, the United Nations Student Association or a Vectum committee ;).

After quitting football, I joined the student athletics sports association Uros, where I train twice a week. Currently, I exercise about 3 to 4 times a week, which is less than 5 times a week I used to train with MVV.

My current team even trains 6 times a week excluding the match on Saturday. We used to play football games on a national level in cities such as Rotterdam, Leeuwarden or Amsterdam, which meant you would leave by bus on 9:00 and would be back home around 20:00. Consequently, my whole Saturday was centred on playing football.

My favourite place to go running in Maastricht is in the fields at Sint-Pieter around the ENCI quarry. Since I do not play a match every Saturday, I focus on running a race every now and then. I have already run 2 semi-marathons so far, one in Heerlen and one in Eindhoven, and a few trail runs. I am planning to run the Groene Loper Run in Maastricht and the Zevenheuvelenloop in Nijmegen both in November this year. I also want to run a full marathon once but then I need to train a bit more for that :).



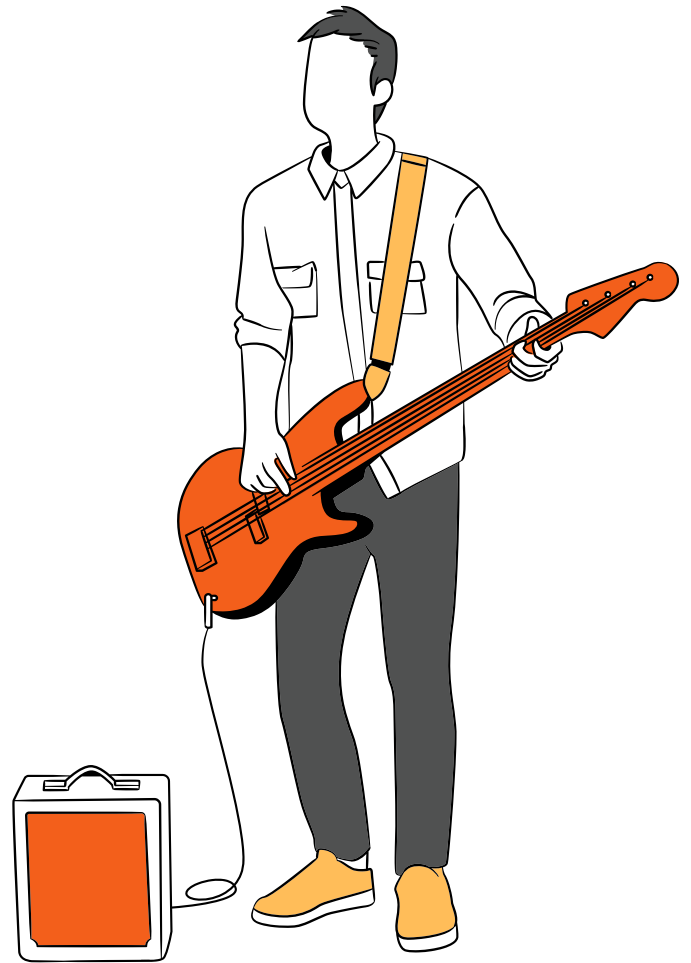
Doing sports on a regular basis besides my studies helps me concentrate, plan my time efficiently and work towards certain goals. Therefore, I would recommend anyone who doesn't exercise regularly to take up their sports, join a sports association and most of all have a lot of fun!

Tim Kurriss' passion involves a guitar and...plenty of music! He takes his hobby to another level as he has recently released his own song called "On My Mind" on Spotify. Moreover, he is very active on TikTok, where he posts his music and covers. And if this is still not impressive enough for you, you should also know that he reached more than 22 000 followers on TikTok. Undoubtedly, this may look like a full-time job for some of us, so now I will let Tim tell you more about himself and about how he manages to divide his time between music and econometrics:

I have been making music for as long as I can remember. It all started when I was 5 years old. Santa Claus gave me my first guitar and I just couldn't let go of it, so, my parents decided that it was time for me to take lessons. This is when my music journey really began. I would ride my bike to the local music school where I would take acoustic guitar lessons on a weekly basis. Once I understood the basics and learned to play actual chords, I started practicing songs that I heard on the radio. I would softly sing along while playing, as probably every new musician does. I remember that first time, sitting in the living room, playing, and singing along with Alain Clarke's song Father and Friend. Fun fact, I still perform that song to this day whenever I have a gig.

After a few years my teacher advised me to buy an electric guitar, because it opens more possibilities in terms of play styles. So, I bought my first electric guitar and started to take lessons with both guitars. I quickly fell in love with the electric instrument, so, after 9 years, I decided to stop the acoustic guitar lessons and just continue with the electric guitar.

One day in 2016, my parents surprised me by saying that they had signed me up for The Voice Kids. Every year thousands of children sign up, but only 50 of them actually make it to the “Blind Auditions”. You don’t see this on television, but in order to get there I had to go through approximately 10 rounds of selection. I eventually made it to the “Blind Auditions” and sang on television in front of more than two million people. I was very nervous, because I was young and I had never sung in front of that many people, but it was an amazing experience I will never forget. Due to this journey I was asked to perform in bars, at weddings, parties et cetera, and I still do. Every month I have a couple of live performances and I absolutely love doing that!



I have learned an incredible number of things from amazing teachers over several years, not just about guitar playing, but music in general. However, at the age of 16 I felt that it was time for something new. So, after 12 years of weekly lessons, I stopped, and I decided to go on my own. I have always wanted to write my own music, so I transformed my “practice room” into a home studio. Producing music is so much more than just coming up with some chords and lyrics, so I used to watch tutorials about music production on YouTube for hours and hours. I quickly realised that the piano\keyboard is a must have instrument, so I taught myself how to play piano in order to start creating my own music. I taught myself how to use the most imperative tools, so I was ready to go!



During one of the Microeconomics tutorials in the first year of Econometrics I met Joshua. We started talking about music because he plays piano and has experience in producing songs. We decided to make a song about our feelings during the lockdown. The song is about keeping the good times in mind even in difficult times, because sitting at home all day was not exciting, was it?

After months of song writing and producing, we released 'On My Mind' to all streaming platforms on the 23rd of August. It is a dream come true to have my own name and song on the biggest music platforms such as Spotify and Apple music.



If you release a song, you obviously want a lot of people to hear it, so what is the best way to promote music and gain some name recognition? Indeed, social media. In January of this year, I decided to create a TikTok account, the booming platform that is ideal for musicians since you can post videos up to one minute of you making music. After a few months I got more and more views on videos of me covering other artists, 10.000, 20.000, 30.000, it just kept growing. One evening I posted a video and the next morning I woke up, because my phone was blowing up. I checked my TikTok and the video was on 600.000 views and I had already gained thousands of followers. The video is currently on 3.6 million views and has 650.000 likes. I just couldn't believe that I was able to reach so many people from making music in my bedroom. Now, every time I release a new song, I use TikTok to promote it.

Whenever I have some free time I either play football or make music. So far, I am able to divide my time between music and studying in a good way. This is all due to my time investment in previous years. In my first years of learning guitar, I obliged myself to practice for at least 15 minutes every single day. I would recommend this to every newly starting musician, because eventually you will reach a level where it doesn't feel like practicing anymore. You will make music because you're excited to do so.

Making music has always been a passionate hobby of mine and it always will be, however it has become more serious now. I will keep posting videos on social media and I will definitely release more songs in the future. Hopefully, one day, one of my songs hits the charts and I'll be performing live in front of thousands of people!

Listen to "On My Mind" here!



Next, meet Joshua Smilde who also loves music, particularly electronic beats & remixes. While most people just use the internet to find music for studying, doing housework, running etc., Joshua learned how to produce his own music. He released his own song called “Allegra (Bar is Closed)” on his Spotify account this year. On his SoundCloud account, you can find more of his tracks and remixes, so you will surely find a song you like! Let’s hear from Joshua what inspired him to make his own music...and maybe he will tell us when the next release is?

My love for making music started early when my father bought our family an iPad which had the app Garageband installed on it. It was great because I could for the first time try to make music like Avicii, Martin Garrix, Tiësto or any other cool DJ I wanted to be like when growing up. It hooked me instantly!

I made songs on the iPad until I went to high school when I switched over to a program called ‘Logic’ on the computer. I took some producing lessons at my school and progressed into making my songs sound a little more professional. I started to collaborate with some friends from school on hip hop and rap music, and became known as RedBeats (which is still on Spotify ;p)

The process of making a song is always different for me, and that’s also one of the reasons why I enjoy collaborating with other people so much, whether they are artists or not. A good example of this is my song ‘Allegra (Bar is Closed)’, which essentially started after I received a voice message of the girl working at the bar in a small place in Italy, where I was on vacation. The Italian accent was so strange and funny to me that I wanted to put it in a song. It’s also a good memory of a great vacation.



Right now, I’m working on two different projects. One of them is my collaboration with Tim who is a great singer and guitarist. We met each other during uni tutorials and got along right away (which could also be contributed to microeconomics tutor Bas creating a great atmosphere in his lessons). The songs I make with Tim are very pop-oriented, and we’re using his rise on TikTok as a means to get more streams on Spotify (our music can be found under Tim Kurriss on Spotify).

The second project I'm working on right now is my first original Jazz album. It contains mainly piano music, which I'm recording from a digital piano in my room. I often play on it after getting back from a night out. The songs are instrument only, featuring also trumpets, drums and bass. I hope to release the album before the end of 2021. So, be sure to follow my Instagram where I announce all my releases.

Listen to "Allegra (Bar Is Closed)" here!



Do you or a fellow econometrician
have an interesting hobby?

CONTACT US!

**YOU COULD BE FEATURED
IN THE NEXT PERVECTUM!**



VECTUM.MAASTRICHT

Interview with Alumni



By Kristina Dimitrova & Katherine Faulkner*

1. Could you introduce yourself?

Yes, I'm Katherine, Katherine Faulkner. I'm an old Vectum member. I started in 2014 and was here for my Bachelor's and Master's – 4 years. So, let me do some math...I think it was 2018 I graduated. That sounds about right. In my second year bachelor, I was the Secretary and PR Coordinator of (then) SCOPE | Vectum.

2. What led you to Maastricht? Why did you choose to study here?

So that's a bit of a long answer. My intention wasn't originally to come to Maastricht. A career adviser at school had suggested it to me. In the UK we have a system called "UCAS" which only allows you to apply to five universities, with a first choice and a backup choice, dependent on grades. Maastricht gave me an extra option of a university. I was unique in my year, or in my school, just for applying actually. Nobody else went abroad for their entire Bachelor's. Island mentality, that just wasn't the done thing. Everyone was going through UCAS, and I also got swept up with that so I kind of forgot the Maastricht application. But then all hell broke loose. The whole Economics year group was a mess, I had the second-highest grade but it was a D. To put that into context, it was technically a pass for an A level, but it converts to a 5. So, everyone lost their place at the university. And, in the UK, we have a system called "Clearing". So, if you lose your places, these spare uni spots become available at the

universities and are filled on a first-come-first-served, the whole country is trying to get places at once. It's an absolute nightmare. At 8 AM everyone can get their results and know where they stand. And then everyone's phoning, sitting in waiting queues, emailing. It's first-come-first-served, who knows who to get spot and the spots are gone like.... It's just absolute chaos. And, all the teachers were focusing on the other students as they had just lost everything (contrary to me, as I still had Maastricht). Yet to me it felt like I had lost my future as well. I mean, I got my future planned to the extent that I had organised a job in the university I was going to go to. I had my accommodation sorted. I had a lined-up funding for the next trampoline coaching training. I had everything planned, and then it was like *nope*.

The teachers reminded me that I had this unconditional offer from Maastricht, because here (in the Netherlands) University applications are not grade-based, I just needed to be graduated. In the UK, there is a much higher barrier to entry but then there is a far lower drop-out rate, whereas as you've probably experienced, here you've got to prove yourself. So, they were like, well just go to Maastricht!

*With the special editorial contribution of Joost Veth

Long story short, we got the results around Thursday, went through “Clearing” on Thursday/Friday, and Saturday I called Maastricht University asking if the spot was still available and if so, whether someone could meet me in the Netherlands and take me around the university on Monday. Little did I know, there was apparently this thing called “INKOM”, for which I was expected to be in Maastricht on Monday. As Universities in the UK start a month later, this came as a complete shock to me. Then I started cancelling holidays and other plans, still, a bit bewildered: “oh, I’m going to university now, okay”.

The Sunday my uncle took me over to the Netherlands. My parents had booked me a hotel room for two nights, and by Tuesday my uncle had gone back again. I had pair of jeans, a few tops, toiletries, and my parents handed me a sleeping bag and told me to go meet someone and see if I can sleep on their floor.

I had to buy my INKOM tickets first thing Monday morning since, by the time I found out INKOM existed, the ticket sales had closed. I’d been drinking (obviously) the Monday, and came back very late. Tuesday morning, however, my uncle had no sympathy when he woke me up at 6 am saying I needed to find somewhere to live. In the UK we have a dorm system so all first-years are allocated a place to live. Naturally, I thought that was the case here as well. *Uhm, no, sorry, that’s not how it works here!*

So there I was, with nowhere to stay the next night wondering how to find somewhere. So, I end up going to the guesthouse with the exchange students. Really expensive room but it gave me a place to stay.

I was sharing a room with an American girl, but due to different timetables (her getting up really early, me on the INKOM timetable), it took us about three days to finally meet each other.

I also only had a visa pound card and visa doesn’t work in a lot of shops here, so I was living on cash, constantly withdrawing money from the cash machine. Public transport didn’t go much better. My dad had given me a ‘strippenkaart’ from 20 years ago when he was in Maastricht and told me that this will get me around a bit at the beginning. We had a pool party one of the days in INKOM and I tried to get on the bus with the strippenkaart, to find out the system of strippenkaarten was banned from public transport 10 years before. *“Oh, okay, well can someone get me to the pool party?”*

To make the story even more unlikely, at this point I was actually going on the assumption I was an Economics student here (as I applied for Economics in the UK.) When I ran into econometrics students at INKOM I was like *“Oh, that sounded really interesting. If I had known they did that in Maastricht, I would have applied for it”*. So you can imagine my surprise at the Bachelor’s Introduction Day when the President of Vectum bounded up to me, excited that a Brit me was doing Econometrics (*funny side note, I’m now engaged to him*).

All in all, it was a lot of fun because I started completely from scratch. My life changed that week. I just restarted again.

3. For us, the Covid generation, exchange is a sensitive topic. Where did you go on exchange and how did you like it?

When people first asked me where are you going to go on exchange, my answer was “I’m not going to go on exchange, this is my exchange”. At which point people told me that that’s part of the program. So I came to the decision that for it to be worthwhile, I would have to go as far away and to as different a culture as possible. I ended up going to Taiwan!

The people were absolutely amazing. The mentality of how they do things is very different. The focus is much more on the whole rather than on the individual. I met a lot of interesting people on exchange and made a lot of friends. Of course, everyone talks about food and cultural things are amazing when on exchange but it really is true, try what you can!

My recommendation would be don’t overburden yourself with work. In fact, the bit I taught myself was to let go of trying to get the top grades in Asia. I could pass easily but to get a good grade would take a lot of effort and we optimise right? And to spend hours and hours extra was not optimal! I spent the time travelling round the island (as well as Vietnam, Singapore, Hong Kong, and Australia), soaking up culture, enjoying myself, getting memories. I was then also able to spend time learning Mandarin and teaching children in local secondary schools. That was one of the best decisions I’ve ever made.

4. What was your thesis about?

Back in my year, we could still specialise in the masters. My track was technically Econometrics with OR specialisation.

I did the opposite to what might be considered normal – I did my master thesis as the academic one and my bachelor thesis with a company. So, my master thesis was a new form of graph theory, which was a more continuous version of traditional graph theory. I then translated some of the traditional graph problems, set cover, maximum independent set, and graph colouring, into the new world.

If you’ve done nodes and edges, I introduced the idea of what I was calling a “pin”. It’s basically like a node but it can go anywhere along the edges and then it would have a “reach”. If you had a reach of a half, and if you would only put the pins on the nodes, the problem would act like the traditional mechanics of graph theory. Now if you put the pin on the edges, and let the reach bleed into the other edges, how does it work? What kind of optimal solutions can you then get? What is the difference between the optimal solutions of the old world versus the new world? I loved it and actually decided to do a PhD to investigate further into this. I don’t want an academic career but I did enjoy the master thesis.

5. So, you did your bachelor thesis with a company, did you also start working there?

No, I did my bachelor’s thesis with SABIC and I started (and am still) working for Dassault Systèmes (in what was known as Quintiq but has been bought by DS). You might have seen them in previous LEDs and stuff.

6. What do you do on a daily basis within the company?

I’m what is called an Operations Research Scientist. Basically, you know those OR projects you do – writing optimisers for a company? For example, the DHL project

during the skills period? I basically do that for a living. I'm in services, we get customers projects and I make custom optimisers for them, which I love doing. Already in uni, I used to love doing the projects, the time pressure, going through it with your friends. For me this is just... special, pushing through it together, achieving something together.

7. Do you still keep in touch with some of your Vectum friends?

Yes definitely, actually we just went to Crete with some of my Vectum friends in September. It was a lovely group of 12 of us. We also still try to go skiing yearly and I frequently meet old Vectum members for various activities.

8. In 2017-2018 you were tutoring Analysis 1 and 2 and working at SABIC while still studying. That sounds like quite some work?

My masters was a bit crazy. My bachelor thesis project was at SABIC, I really liked it, and they wanted me to implement it for them basically. So, they offered me a full-time job. However, as I wanted to do my masters, I told them that I could maybe spare a day a week.

And they were okay with that, so it was basically a fifth of a full-time job doing OR stuff. I was basically just working on my bachelor's thesis - a model, giving them outputs.

I was tutoring at the same time, representing EOR at the student council, and doing BEELab experiments. I was also doing Dutch lessons at the time, so I was very busy! For that last one, I had to negotiate quite a bit actually. Universities policy states that if you are non-German you can only do the A1- and A1+ as the free courses. I did my A1- in my first year and

had been dating a Dutch guy since, so by the time I got to my masters I was A2 level. Eventually, they let me take the German class, 'but only if you have a German friend'. Luckily I did, so I could take the A2 class with the Germans, which was fun (*thanks Dominik*).

9. You were the secretary of the board of Vectum in 2015-2016. Could you tell us more about your board experience?

As anyone will tell you, it's great fun. Working as a team throughout the year, organising some really fun activities every week with many extra events, like members weekend, is so much fun. There's a lot of satisfaction to be taken knowing you were part of the team that made things a success.

We reformed a lot in our year. We had to change a lot of the infrastructure as Facebook had taken down our Vectum account, not believing we were a person (can't argue with that) and some photos were lost in the process. Whilst solving this, we decided to look overall at the systems we were using (for example we decided an office phone line wasn't exactly necessary). We also came up with a proper backup system (in case of a fire or a hack). The Treasurer was doing the Extra Tutorials but it just wasn't feasible time-wise, since we were also re-formatting the finance system. So, I took on the Extra Tutorials. I don't know if they still use it, but I actually made the scheduling Excel.

10. What were the highlights of your student experience?

I had a lot of fun times. Watching the sun come over the Maas at like 6 am in the morning after one of the GMAs, I remember that moment. We had an amazing night out

and it was just so peaceful, I thought “okay, life’s good”. Exchange obviously contains loads of highlights. But I actually really enjoy just the general stuff as well. I loved, in the beginning, these five minutes always spontaneously “*Oh, are we going to do this? Are we going to do that? There is this to discover. Oh, let’s hop over to Aachen and go to the Christmas market. Let’s go to Carnival. Let’s go and discover the rest of the Netherlands.*” My Dutch friends also took me to Amsterdam for one of the first times in my first year. We went skiing in my first year. It was just all fun. Always doing random (*potentially stupid*) stuff, always having friends around. Even the little things, the st. Pietersberg, one time with a bucket of Sangria, going to Eric’s place. Eric’s place in our Bachelor’s was a thing. Going to D’n Hiemel for a foam party or Wall Street party. Or talking to a duck at 4 am in the morning. Just all the stupid things we did. It was the people that made me stay here.

11. Earlier you mentioned that back in the day, you were a trampoline coach. Could you tell us more about it? Are you still practicing?

Yes, I was. I would have continued it in the UK, but, unfortunately, there’s no trampolining here, so it’s something I had to give up when I came. But I used to train six times a week, and I coached it as well. The highlight in my competitive career was just before I came over. I got to Nationals in my level and ended up second in the UK for ladies over 16, level four. When I came here and asked about trampolining, they told me the closest is maybe Aachen. So I stopped as I had no idea how to get myself to Aachen. Besides this, I was spending all my time trying to find somewhere to live.

12. What advice can you give to students currently studying econometrics?

I was very concerned about grades when I came. Grades matter, but there’s more than just grades. Your degree is also about the life experience you’re picking up from Maastricht. You have wonderful opportunities for all that, especially with all the internationals. That’s really for me, also what made my time so much fun and a lot of laughs. I loved learning from different cultures, I love the little jokes between the cultures, the stupid misunderstandings of what people say. Don’t ignore this part of your degree as also in working life, the other stuff is more what you talk about, it’s something additional you bring to the table. Having a good grade might get you in the door but then if you got nothing else, you’re not so captivating. It’s not just about what you know, it’s how you are as a person that really matters.



We would like to thank you for your time and all the interesting stories!

Dr. Vectum



Dear Dr. Vectum,

I am a firstie (as I've heard you 'oldies' calling us) in the E&OR program and I am in need of some advice! So far, I have not engaged in extracurricular activities, outside of sports and languages that is, and after starting my university life I felt it's about time for me to try something new. Imagine my excitement when I received the thrilling news for the Vectum committees! I thoroughly informed myself about the offered possibilities and quickly made my decision about which committee I wanted to apply for. For days I was contemplating on my candidacy, carefully working out every detail of my CV, and finally, the only thing standing between me and the desired committee spot was the motivation letter. I am not much of a writer myself and since I had never written such a letter before, it turned out to be a decisive challenge. I just couldn't wrap up the darn (excuse my language) letter for the life of me!

Knowing letters of motivation are a very standard practice in all application procedures, be these either for committees, boards, internships or workplaces, I am turning to you dear Dr. Vectum, asking for your kindness to let me in behind the scenes of the recently-ended selection procedure and show me an example of a letter you find most convincing. I, of course, give to you my word not to use this for any malicious purposes, and solely for educational ones!

I count on your best intentions to aid a fellow Vectum member in need and give them a chance for less missed opportunities in the future.

Sitting at the edge of my seat for your reply,

Atticus Finch

Dr. Vectum:

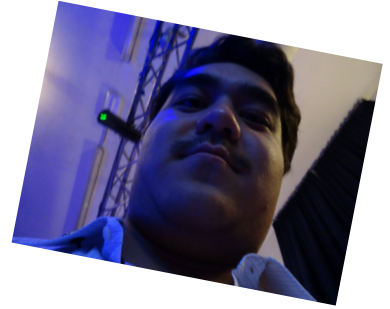
Dear Atticus,

I am very sorry to hear we missed having you on our active team! But your struggle with writing motivation letters is completely understandable and a common issue I would say. In fact, recently I was also contacted by a friend, who was applying for a job position, with the same concern and I provided examples of my personal collection hoping to assist them. I am honoured to give out a hand to you with this tough matter as well!

All of the applications we received this year were, of course, fantastic. In my eyes, however, one of them stood out with its creative nature. The applicant came up with a wonderful way to motivate his candidacy for the activities committee by personalising his letter to Vectum and demonstrating admirable creativity, which we deemed vital for the respective committee, while keeping the formal structure of a motivation letter - stating his reasons to apply and his qualifications for the position. Please, find the letter of motivation below:

.....

*Asemtakumi Nagata, email address**
Vectum Committee Application Motivation Letter
Maastricht University



To whoever this might concern,

A long time ago, during a particularly harsh winter, my mother's car got stuck in the snow due to an unexpected yet strong snowstorm. As the back wheels kept on spinning in place, the heating finally gave out, and very young me started to feel the cold settle in for a night that may or may not be survivable. As all connection with the outside world failed, hope of getting home safe was getting dangerously low, when suddenly, a person emerged and stood behind our car. With one mighty push, he was able to set our car on the track of getting out of the snow. We never learned who he was and how he managed to arrive and help us; all we knew of him was the term 'Vectum' that was embroidered on his shirt. For the longest time I had no idea of what that term meant, until I enrolled in Maastricht University. Upon learning of the organization that my savior was a part of, I made sure I showed up to as many events that they organize as possible. Eventually, I wanted to pay back the kindness that was offered to me by joining the Activities Committee and hopefully bringing fun and enriching activities to the other members, one of which will definitely be volunteering to help clear snow during severe weather conditions. My good team working skills, general proclivity to doing what I'm told, and occasional creative bursts will hopefully allow me to organize good activities as part of the committee.

p.s.
in all seriousness vectum is pretty cool and i wanted to become a committee for quite a while now and this is my opportunity now so like if u could let me in thatd be pretty cool but no pressure ofc (:

**The exact email address has been intentionally removed for GDPR purposes*

.....

Now you may wonder as we did, who might this imaginative person be? So, we let him introduce himself:

Multi-national, third-culture individual that lived and studied in multiple countries around the world. An International Baccalaureate graduate, where language skills, as well as critical thinking, were honed and practiced. Currently in the third year of the Econometrics and Operations Research Bachelor at Maastricht University, as well as a (hopefully) member of the Vectum Activities Committee. Fear of disappointing others and fear of rejection were carefully developed into becoming a good team-player. Punctual, occasionally charismatic, and eager to engage with similar-minded persons.

And to seal the deal, he even provided us with some references (in the CV)!

Asem has been a regular at Vectum activities for a long time already, Vectum wouldn't be Vectum without him"

- Tobias Breuer, current Vectum board member and unbiased third-party. Quote taken from a completely candid conversation where the subject (Asem) has his back turned towards him.

"During the last three years I have been attending Vectum activities, where Asem is often present. He is a great person that understands the importance of Vectum activities and the effort it takes to organize. I believe that Asem will be a great addition to the activities committee"

- Alexander Noordman, past Vectum board member. Quote taken from a late-night bonfire session where the participants said nice things about each other whilst consuming warm and deliciously gooey marshmallows.

I hope this piece of advice helped you at least a tiny bit my dearest Atticus, and I hope we get to read some of your future fascinating motivation letters!

Always at your service,

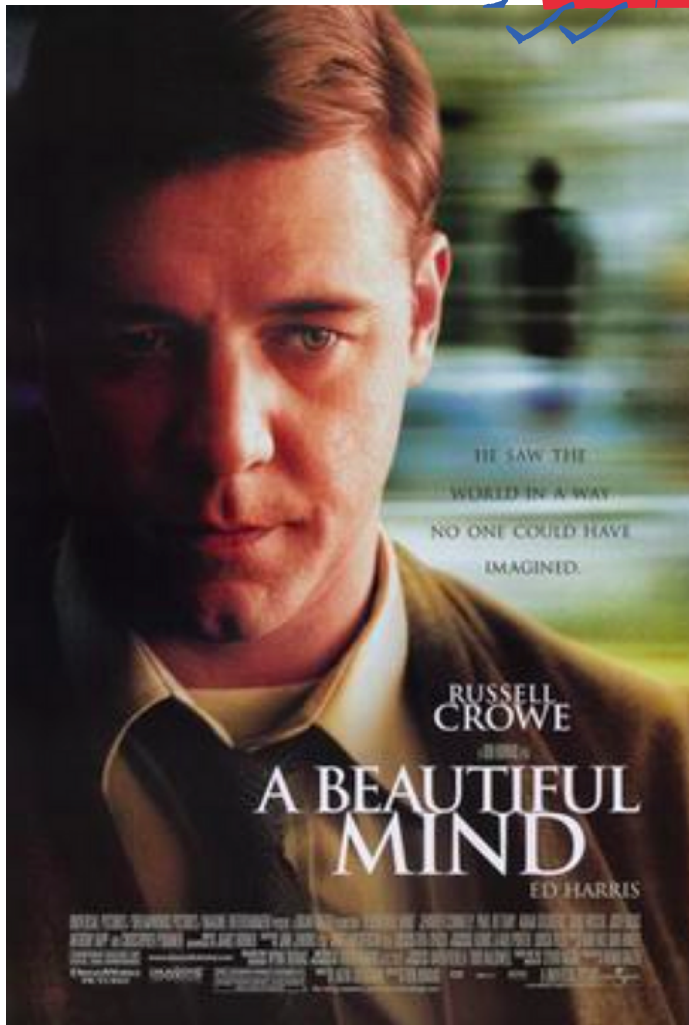
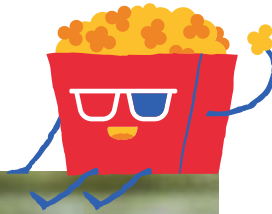
Dr. Vectum

If you have questions for Dr. Vectum, submit them in via secretary@vectum-maastricht.nl (Names will be kept anonymous!)

Vectum's Must-Watch List

By Alexandra Lazar

When you want to watch a movie or a new tv show, does it sometimes take a lifetime to find one that raises your interest? It happens from time to time that we scroll down on Netflix and feel like we've already watched all the good movies and tv series. I asked econometrics students about what movies or tv shows they recommend watching, maybe one of the recommendations will become your utmost favourite?



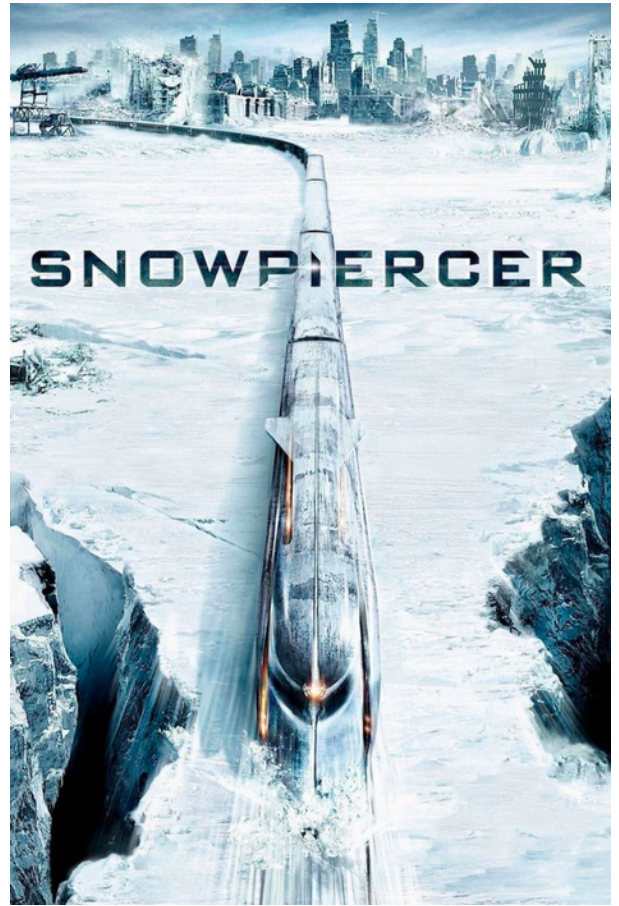
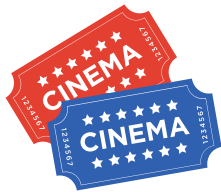
A Beautiful Mind

First of all, a must-watch should be “A beautiful mind”, a drama movie which tells the story of Nobel Prize winner John Nash. He is a math genius who brings innovations in game theory, but his success is in many ways overshadowed by decades of mental illness. I’d describe this movie best as “complex” because it consists of heartwarming moments – for example when John Nash falls in love, yet it also presents the harsh reality of dealing with a mental illness. I’m sure most of you have already heard of the “Nash Equilibrium” in Game Theory and well...this movie shows how John Nash discovers this equilibrium so you should not miss “A beautiful mind”!

Now let’s hear what other econometricians recommend! ;)

SNOWPIERCER

Would you be the one to start watching “Snowpiercer”? This series is a post-apocalyptic thriller that deserves attention. The plot seems fictional but the characters resemble the real world - the gigantic train that circles around the globe in complete frozen wasteland gives home to people with different skills and attitudes. The show reveals social injustice, class hierarchy, and difficulties surviving. Although it might seem odd in the beginning, keep watching and it might become one of your favorites. You will spot some really good actors like Jennifer Connelly and Steven Ogg ;) -Diana



SUPERNATURAL

If I told you that “Supernatural” had fifteen seasons, would you say “who has time to watch so many seasons?!”? I finished all seasons in less than 2 months because once I started watching it, I couldn’t stop! Sam and Dean are two brothers who follow their father’s footsteps as hunters. They fight against evil supernatural beings and always manage to save the day. If you are like me and have a thing for fantasy/drama tv shows with vampires, witches and monsters, then this is the perfect show for you. - Aashia

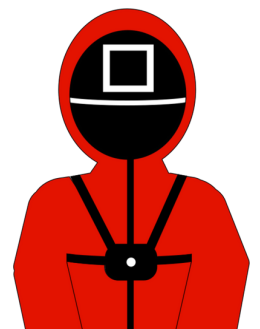
INCEPTION

Are you a fan of Christopher Nolan, Leonardo DiCaprio or a great sci-fi movie? If the answer is yes, you are going to love my recommendation. Inception brings you to the world of Cobb, who is an expert in stealing thoughts at your most vulnerable time - when you are asleep. But in his last mission, a mission that could solve all his problems, he is not asked to steal a thought. Instead, he has to lodge a thought into somebody's mind. Having to fight his own subconscious demons, Cobb puts together a team to conquer a nearly impossible mission. The captivating story together with a fitting music by Hans Zimmer will keep your mind spinning not only during the movie, but also after it ends. -Barbora



SQUID GAME

I'm sure all of you have heard about the hype around Squid Game. Trust me, it's worth the hype! Assume that you have a lot of debt that you don't know how to get rid of and you could participate in a game that would make all that debt go away and earn you some nice extra pocket money. Then the squid game represents the solution. In this show, the participants will play different kids games, in which contestants get eliminated in each round. One important catch is that once you participate, you might never come back... but you know it's kind of worth it because YOLO! -Arman



Divergent

“Divergent” is a movie set in the distant future, where Chicago is cut off from the rest of the world. Its society is strictly divided into five factions based on character traits. A government-sponsored personality test decides which faction a person belongs to. However, the test of the 16-year-old Tris Prior (protagonist) reveals that she is DIVERGENT, meaning that she does not fit into any fraction. Tris goes for Dauntless (faction for “the brave”) and gets to know the instructor Four. Together, they discover that the Erudite (faction for “the intelligent”) plan to take control of the government and to kill all divergent, mainly because they are scared of people who don’t fit into patterns. I really like this movie because it involves adventure and drama and it highlights the human drive for patterns. I think it’s perfect for a fun evening with friends and there are also several sequels following, which are also worth it! - Merle



Mememes

When you manage to get your analysis grade up to a 4.5



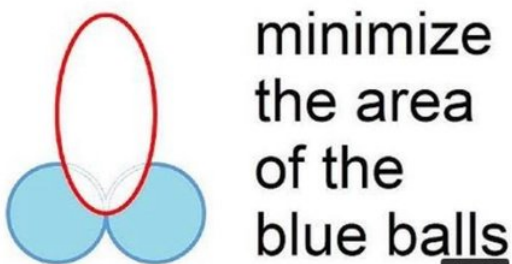
Me after reading exercise 1A of intro to programming.



EVERYONE DOING REGRESSIONS IN R OR STATA



When there is no Vectum activity on Tuesday

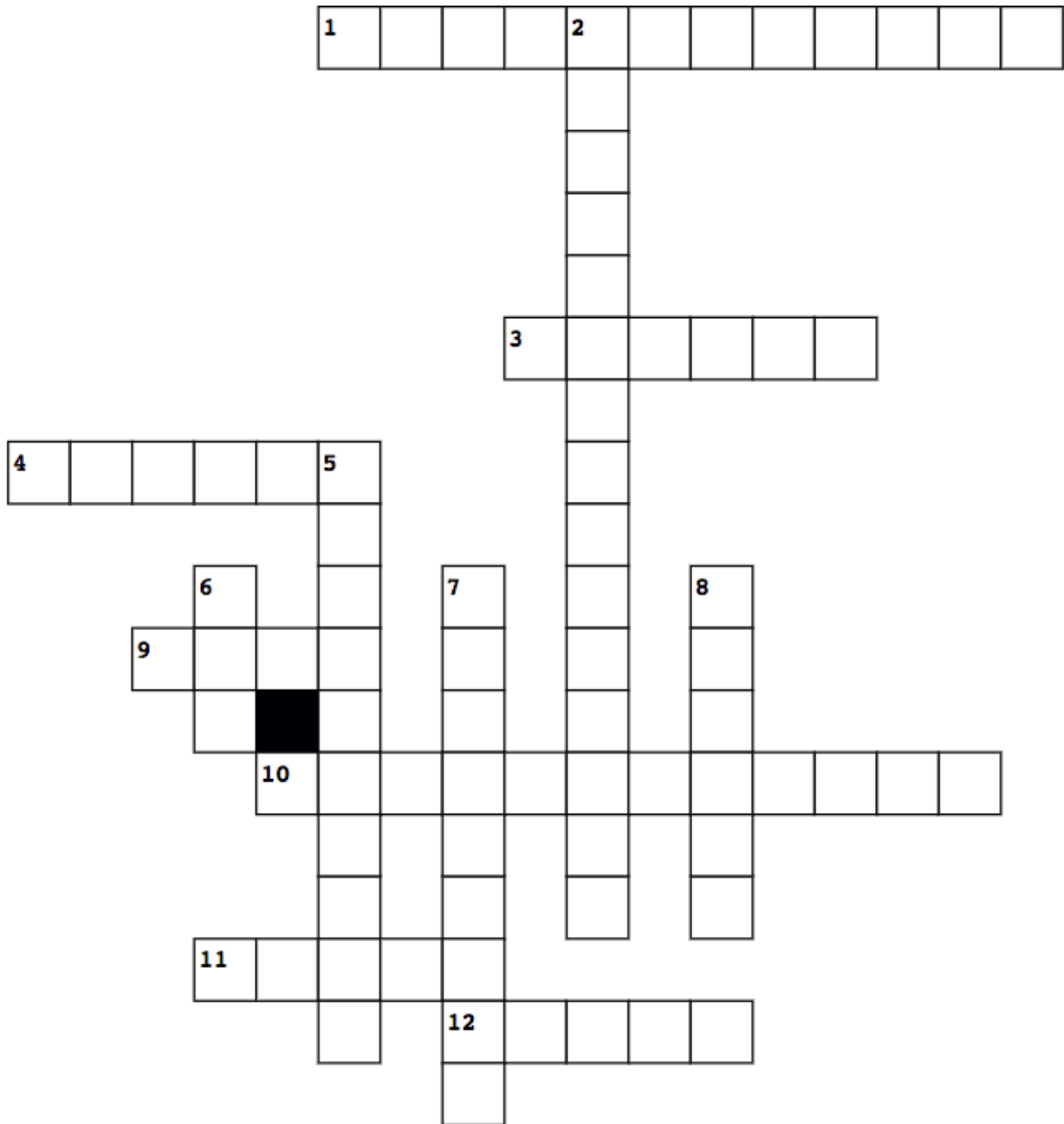


An Epicurean Geometry Problem
SPV Laboratories
813 views • 3 months ago

STAN VAN HOESEL BE LIKE:



Crossword



Across

- 1.** E&OR's sexiest professor
- 3.** Traditional Bavarian dress
- 4.** Which Vectum tradition was kept during the LEST this year?
- 9.** How many different games were played at the welcome activity?
- 10.** Famous OR problem
- 11.** How many tournaments does the LEST consist of?
- 12.** The image of which number turned out problematic for the members at one of the games during the welcome activity?

Down

- 2.** Where did the welcome activity take place?
- 5.** Routing games are a part of which field in E&OR?
- 6.** How many 'stations' are there in the Sports & Games Tournament of the LEST?
- 7.** Location where the Oktoberfest took place
- 8.** Which association was the first opponent of the Vectum Sports & Games competitors at the LEST?



A surprise will go to the first person who submits the correct version! Contact us at secretary@vectum-maastricht.nl

#PaidByVectum





Landelijke Econometristendag

10 February 2022

The largest recruitment event for econometricians across the Netherlands will again be taking place offline this year! Various activities await the participants: from interesting speakers, through speeddates and cases, to networking drinks and dinner.

**LED 2022 will take place on the
10th of February, 2022.**

**Registrations open on 18
November 2021, at 8 P.M. sharp!**

For more information visit leditbeyourday.nl