

Welcome

Dear Club members - We are starting the year with a mini-newsletter to accompany the mailing of the invitation to the Annual General Meeting in Fribourg on 17 March 2012. This in conjunction with a visit to the Swiss Sewing Machine and Unusual Objects Museum. There are important proposals on the agenda and we look for-

ward to seeing many of you there to discuss them and decide together. In addition, two vacancies on the Board need to be filled; interested members can reach the Board at info@mitclub.ch.

Martin Hahn

Past Events

Visit to Ruetschi Bell Foundry, Aarau (12 November 2011)

On November 12th, the MIT Club of Switzerland visited the R etschi Bell Foundry, where we learned about the bell making industry, restoration of bells, bell acoustics, and determiners of bell longevity. The tour was led by the foundry's general manager, Rene Spielmann-Dober, and was attended by twenty-two adults and nine children.

Mr. Spielmann-Dober is an authority of the bell industry, being a third generation bell founder. Standing in front of the foundry's ten-ton oven, he described how a company that makes products lasting a minimum of a hundred years needs to diversify to stay profitable. In addition to making bells, the R etschi Bell Foundry now repairs and restores bells, constructs bell towers, large rotary parts, and small- and large-scale art castings.

Mr. Spielmann-Dober showed the group that there is a lot more to bell making than what first meets the eye. For exam-

ple, when designing a bell installation, one must first consider the site. How to further increase the longevity of bells is often a top issue. And as evidence to the longevity of the R etschi Foundry's products - sitting in the workshop were two bells awaiting restoration, both from the 1400s.

At the end of the tour, Alumni were presented with a small cast bell complete with the MIT logo. A short walk brought the group to the Gasthof zum Schuetzen restaurant for lunch, where the bell conversation continued and everyone got to know each other better. Afterwards the Carillon concert in the medieval Oberturm tower in Aarau allowed the group to enjoy the musical qualities of the bells discussed earlier.

Many thanks to Viara Nedeva for organizing such a technologically and culturally interesting event!

Katie Juntilla



Future Events

Annual Bike Tour (26-27 May 2012): save the date now, more details to follow

Feature

Nicolas Haenni (VP Finance)

Life started to settle down after my childhood during which I moved often. From boarding school in the German part of the Valais to graduating at the ETH in Zürich, I encountered in my first jobs the world of information exchange and beginnings of the Internet (if Mosaic should mean something to you). Having built one of the first delayed stock quoting systems for the Internet, my then employer assured me that the Internet was a fad doomed to fail with no future whatsoever. Clearly, our vision of the future was diverging. I opted for the fad and enrolled in the MIT Sloan School

during the excitement of the dot-com bubble and my employer awaited the terror of Y2K (we survived). Returning from the MIT I joined our club and have been working in various organizations (private, government and start-up) related to the exciting and transforming domain of e-Government.



Nicolas Haenni

Impressum

MIT Club of Switzerland

Website: <http://alumweb.mit.edu/clubs/switzerland/> (currently undergoing re-development)

Email: switzerlandclubpres@alum.mit.edu

Facebook: www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=62565487029 (please email srope01@yahoo.com in case of questions)

Zurich Group: http://groups.google.com/group/mit_zurich (please email bublu_thakur@alum.mit.edu in case of questions)

Board

Michael Helke (President)
Martin Hahn (VP Communications)
Position open (VP Events)
Sheila Ohlund (VP Members)
Nicolas Haenni (VP Finance)

Donald Tillman (Advisor)
Hans Hagenbuch (Auditor)
Hans Herriger (Deputy Auditor)

Alumni Info

As per November 2008, there are 377 alumni in Switzerland. Undergraduate degree holders have grown to 24%. Graduate degree holders in Management are the largest group overall (16% of all degree holders). Senior Executives and Civil Engineering follow (10% each). For undergraduates, Electrical Engineering (9%) and Computer Science (3%) with Chemical Engineering (3%) retain the top spots.