

Welcome

Dear Club Members - an impressive number of events have taken place since our last newsletter, more than fit in a single issue. More about past and future events in the next one. Our

thanks to the members whose initiative and dedication made this rich program possible!

Martin Hahn

Past Events

Swiss Sewing Machine Museum (17.3.2012)

The 16 visitors from the Club received a warm welcome by the museum's founder and owner, Mr. Wassmer, and his son. The unique collection of household appliances, vacuum cleaners, irons and sewing machines etc. is on display on the ground floor and in the magnificent vaulted cellar of a building dating back to the 12th century. We saw the oldest sewing machine existing, tiny ones for children, beautifully designed ones, also very large ones to sew leather, jute and other heavy material. Singer, we learned, is an American inventor. The collection also includes an extraordinary series of irons. Plunged suddenly into the past,

we imagine our grandmothers heating their irons with methylated spirits, gas, charcoal or simply by placing them on the stove. Very special also: the first mechanical vacuum cleaners with bellows, requiring two people to operate, one to pump the air, the other to sweep. We also saw antique wooden washing appliances. Hundreds of unusual objects are on display, such as a pistol to kill moles, a top-hat that could be collapsed for traveling etc. Amazing how human beings have always been innovative to find ways to make everyday life easier.

Jake Nigg

2012 Annual General Meeting (17.3.2012)

After the museum we had lunch at Café du Gothard, a Fribourg institution, and held the AGM. It took these important decisions:

- 1) It elected Viara Nedeva as Secretary.
- 2) It approved several revisions to the Statutes including these:
 - Only members in good standing (i.e. who are current in their dues payments) can exercise the privileges of membership, in

particular participate in the General Meeting. Others may continue to participate in Club activities as guests. (Article 4.3)

- A quorum of nine members is required for the General Meeting. (Article 6.0)
- Members of the Executive Committee can sign routine correspondence alone. (Article 7.3)

Michael Helke



Annual Bike Tour: Lake Zurich (26.5.2012)

This was the seventh annual MIT Club of Switzerland bike trip. The weather was ideal for a day on the bike, sunny and cool with no wind. We met at Zurich station, got introduced to each other and headed out through the city, towards Dübendorf. We shared the roads with many roller bladers as we cycled on bike paths along the shores of the Greifensee and on towards Mönchaldorf and Gossau, where we ate lunch at a farm café that was quite popular with other cyclists. With our bellies full, we cycled towards Bubikon, and then were greeted with amazing views of Lake Zurich as we descended into Rapperswil. At this point the group split, with a few taking a more direct route to Lachen across the Seedamm, while the rest rode clockwise around the Obersee. The charming Hotel Bären was our home for the evening. We were joined for dinner by a few more MIT folks who unfortunately couldn't come on the ride. Together we enjoyed good

food and drinks while we shared stories and laughs late into the night. The next day, after a generous breakfast, we headed out on the direct route to Rapperswil and then along the so-called Gold Coast towards Zurich. This being a Sunday morning, traffic was light, and some thin clouds kept the temperatures down, making for very comfortable cycling. We passed through the towns of Stäfa, Männedorf, Meilen, and Herrliberg, and then stopped for lunch at a casual restaurant directly on the water at the port of Küsnacht. After lunch most of the group headed directly to their homes in Zurich or to the train station for the trip home. A plucky couple who live near Winterthur decided to take a scenic route home, up and over the hills between Küsnacht and the Greifensee and so avoided riding through Zurich city.

Jonathan Claman

MIT Sloan Speaker Series: Kick-Off Meeting (12.6.2012)

In the past years the MIT Sloan alumni in Switzerland have held semi-annual reunions featuring presentations on professional topics followed by a small reception. To continue and expand this initiative, we invited the whole MIT alumni community in Switzerland to a round of introductions and an open discussion at the Zunfthaus zur Haue in Zürich. Twenty people attended and fifteen more expressed interest in future net-

working and business oriented events. Those interested have also filled in the Alumni Introduction Form (available on the club's website). The kick-off created a strong momentum for organizing the two following Sloan Speaker Series presentations and building an outstanding schedule for next year.

Viara Nedeva



Tour of Goetheanum (14.6.2012)

Thirty people joined us in Basel for a visit to the Swiss Architectural Museum (SAM) followed by a visit to the Goetheanum in nearby Dornach, which was designed by Rudolf Steiner. The Swiss Architectural Museum featured an exhibit on the original Goetheanum, a special-purpose building dedicated to theatrical performances of the Anthroposophical Society, an institution that grew from teachings of Rudolf Steiner (1861 – 1925), an Austrian-born philosopher, architect, artist, and teacher. Steiner was a prolific author and lecturer, producing more than 40 volumes of written work, and 6000 lectures. He is probably best known today for his impact on education (Waldorf schools) and agriculture (biodynamic farming, particularly wine), although his influence extends to music, and medicine as well. The first Goetheanum was constructed mostly of wood. It was built in the early 1900s (interrupted by

the first world war) and opened in 1920. On New Year's Eve 1922-23 it was destroyed by arson. Hence the SAM exhibit was given over to photographs and detailed text explanations of the building's history, structure and functions. After the fire a new Goetheanum was built of reinforced concrete beginning in the late 1920s. The massive building shell was completed in 1928, and over the following 70 years interior finish and furnishings were added. This building is today the home of the School of Spiritual Science and Anthroposophical Society. The interior spaces are quite remarkable; growing in an organic way from a solid foundation, to rather airy, sculptural vaulted rooms as one moves higher within the building. The beautiful summer day ended with a visit to a local pizza palace for a pleasant evening meal.

Howard Klee



Student Send-Off Party (10.8.2012)

Congratulations to our newly-admitted students from Switzerland! We celebrated Switzerland's chosen few, and even had a few current Sloan students join us. Like last year, a

couple of loyal German members made the trip down to Zurich. It was a lovely summer evening together.

Bublu Thakur-Weigold



Visit to Zero-Energy Building Forum Chriesbach (27.8.2012)

Janet Hering (PhD'88), Director of the EAWAG aquatic research institute in Dübendorf, hosted a tour of the Forum Chriesbach, which opened in 2006. When the building was planned, the techniques and technology em-

ployed pushed the available sustainability systems to their limits. Our tour was followed by an apero riche and an informative and stimulating discussion.

Viara Nedeva



Annual Labor Day Weekend Hike (1.9.2012)

Two days before our hike along the Jura Crest Trail from Biel to Neuchatel the forecast turned bad. The day we met it was raining. Still, not counting the dogs, six persons showed up. We started walking at Les Prés d'Orvin. The higher we got the more we were enveloped in fog. It became difficult to follow the path. Still, we managed to find a farmhouse restaurant in the middle of nowhere, in time for lunch. We were hungry, wet and glad to be able to dry out. Fortified we plodded on in rain and fog. We were on the grounds of the Chasseral hotel when we first saw its silhouette. After a warm shower and a change of clothes we had dinner. Tired as

we were, we still played the old parlor game consequences before retiring. When the next day the weather looked as hopeless as before, we decided to continue hiking at a lower level. By bus and funicular we descended to the vineyards above Lake Biel and followed the Pilgrims Path towards Neuchatel. It was overcast but dry. At La Neuveville and we stopped for lunch. The way onward did not look particularly attractive and so we decided to call it a day after lunch. The trip was overshadowed by the weather, but still a nice weekend in good company.

James Lu



Annual JAC Conference (21.9.2012)

The 6th JAC conference focused on how corporate governance, leadership, sustainability, education and new ways of collaboration contribute to a better future for everyone. The speakers included: Dr. Rolf Dorig (Swiss Life, Adecco), Prof.

Martin Hilb (University St. Gallen), Andreas Schmidt (Gategroup) and many others. Several complementary sessions were held, including an entrepreneurship/startup event.

Martin Hahn

Impressum

Contact Info

Website: mitclub.ch

Email: info@mitclub.ch

Facebook: facebook.com/group.php?gid=62565487029 (mail slope01@yahoo.com in case of questions)

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

Board

Michael Helke (President)
Martin Hahn (Communications)
Viara Nedeva (Secretary)
Position open (Events)
Nicolas Haenni (Treasurer)
Hans Hagenbuch (Auditor)
Hans Herriger (Deputy Auditor)

Alumni Info

As per November 2011, there are 413 alumni in Switzerland (74% of whom are graduate degree holders). Degree holders in Management are the largest group (18%), followed by Electrical Engineering & Computer Sciences (14%).