

Welcome

Dear Club members - The year has progressed, and again we have quite a number of events to review. A sad incidence has been the recent passing of one of our members (see Obituary on page 4).

On a happy note, we have again an activity that was entirely organized by a member (see page 3).

As always, we look forward to receive ideas and suggestions for events or other Club matters. Even if you only have an idea but no time to contribute (or the other way around), we are happy to hear from you, and to involve you.

Martin Hahn

Past Events

Visit of Durchmesserlinie & Annual General Meeting, Zurich (2 April 2011)

The "Durchmesserlinie" project will enable trains to traverse Zurich rather than enter the main station and reverse direction and leave the same way they came. While at present long distance trains calling at Zurich have to go around the periphery of the city, in future they will be able to pass through the centre directly more or less. These two factors will significantly shorten travel times.

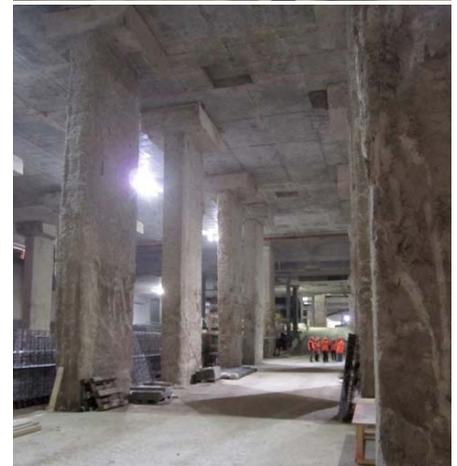
In conjunction with this year's Annual General Meeting (AGM) we toured a part of the project, the construction site under the existing station. At the time of our visit the excavation work was well under way. We walked through cavernous spaces that will become the future through station. At the conclusion of the visit a member of our group asked our excellent guide from the SBB, why the very similar Stuttgart 21 project was giving rise to so much controversy,

while the Durchmesserlinie was proceeding smoothly. Without batting an eyelash he said that by the time a project like this begins in Switzerland all oppositions have been taken into account, and, secondly, he mentioned the effect of staging infrastructure projects in a way that allows existing operations to go on with little or no hindrance. And indeed throughout our visit trains were coming and going on the tracks immediately above us.

After the visit most of us proceeded to lunch at the main station followed by the Club's AGM (see the minutes previously sent).



Michael Helke



Annual Bike Tour (11-12 June 2011)

This year, the annual bike tour took place on the weekend of 11-12 June. It was already the 6th for the MIT Club, but the very first one for me. I was looking forward to it, as I hadn't been on a bicycle for quite some time.

Our trip took us around the beautiful Lake Lugano which was a very relaxing setting: we were surrounded by pristine water, palm trees, cool breeze. At the first few turns, we paused and rested a bit to wait for everyone to catch up, but they were also wonderful opportunities to take in the beauty of the lake. On the way to the lunch location, Ponte Tresa, a couple of us were separated from the rest of the gang and got a bit lost, but that only added to the sense of adventure.

After lunch, we went back onto the bikes and headed to Cam-pione. We enjoyed a hearty, guilt-free dinner together over some good wine and conversation. The next morning, we took a hike - due to the fact that the originally planned path was closed, knowledge of the Italian language became useful in finding an alternative way. The final stretch of the biking route back to the Lugano railway station involved quite some ups-and-downs, which put a sweaty but satisfying end to the trip.



James Lu

Student Send-Off, Zurich (13 August 2011)

When Michael and the admissions office asked me to host a sendoff for this year's admitted students, as an enthusiastic educational counselor, how could I say no? Small countries like Switzerland traditionally have no more than a handful of admits, and I believe we should congratulate and take pride in every one of them. I knew that MIT shared our commitment to the new students, but I was still surprised to receive a package with an assortment of MIT-branded napkins, name tags, balloons, posters, and folding Frisbees! Of the 5 graduate students admitted this year, Patrick Blonigan and Rachel

Horovitz joined us (the remaining 3 had already left for Cambridge). The spirit of our sendoff was definitely made by the alums: Viara, Nida with Hasan, Martin, and Ariane who came all the way from Heidelberg. Together, we watched the sun go down and shared the excitement of new MIT students and future alums. Let's make the sendoff into an annual tradition!



Bublu Thakur-Weigold



Future Events

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

Organized by Viara Nedeva: Learn how the design of a bell influences its musical performance and how a private manufacturing business founded in 1367 remains profitable in the 21st century. On our visit to the Ruetschi Bell Foundry we will be guided by the foundry's general manager. The visit will last 1.5 hours and will be followed by a la carte lunch at Gasthof zum Schuetzen. A 30-min Carillon / Glockenspiel concert in Aarau Oberer-Turm at the center of the old town will follow lunch. We will visit the 15th-century tower Oberer-Turm to see the carillon and then enjoy the concert. Send your reservation before 25 October to viara.nedeva@gmail.com.

Annual General Meeting, Zurich (17 March 2012)

More details will be announced in due course.

Feature

Sheila Ohlund (VP Members)

With an undergraduate degree in biology and two years work experience as a CPA with Price Waterhouse, I attended Sloan School at MIT with a concentration in Finance and Economics. My career in investment management started with American Express in New York and London as a portfolio manager; then with Rothschild Bank in London and Zürich as a portfolio manager and head of research; then as a partner with SBC Brinson Partners in London. Following the firm's merger with UBS, I returned to Zürich.

Having now established my own firm, I manage global assets for private individuals and institutions. An important aspect of my work is providing financial education, especially for those who may be intimidated by classic finance instruction. One workshop, "Investing for Fun and Profit", provides the fundamentals of personal finance using

an entertaining and informative approach.

I met my wonderful husband here at a joint MIT-Stanford event, aptly called Strategic Advantage through People. We have one, also wonderful, son, who is attending a bi-lingual gymnasium. Despite a chronic lack of time, we enjoy biking, hiking, skiing and kayaking through the fabulous Swiss scenery as well as travelling extensively. The MIT Club of Switzerland has been both fun and interesting, and a great way to stay in touch with a fascinating group of people.



Sheila Ohlund

Obituary

Philippe Vuilleumier (1942-2011)

With sadness we announce the sudden and unexpected death of our long-term member and friend Philippe Vuilleumier in the course of our hike in the Riederalp-Belalp region on 3 September 2011. What began as a beautiful hike on a sunny day all of a sudden took a very different turn after our lunch break when some hikers just behind Philippe called out that he had collapsed. The members of our group closest to him rushed to his aid. They initiated CPR with the help of the other hikers. At the same time they called the emergency services. A helicopter arrived in very short order. Notwithstanding the rapid intervention, Philippe could not be revived and was pronounced dead approximately 30 minutes after his collapse. A post mortem examination established that he had had a heart attack.

Under the circumstances we could not continue our hike as planned and the next day returned directly to Brig. A delegation from the Club attended the funeral on 8 September 2011 in Lausanne.

After studying mechanical engineering at the École polytechnique de l'Université de Lausanne, now the EPFL, Philippe enrolled in Course 15 at MIT and obtained a Master of Science degree in Management in 1967. A man of broad knowledge and wide ranging interests, professionally he directed a variety of business ventures both in Switzerland and abroad. He did his military service in the mountain corps and loved the outdoors.



The Executive Committee

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 rope01@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.