

Welcome

Dear Club Members,

Another season of diverse and exciting events is upon us. In this newsletter we take a look back at several of those events and a peak of what's to come.

Many thanks to all of you for your enthusiastic participation, which helps keep our Club active and thriving.

Please also remember that your club membership fees are due for 2016 now. (Thanks if you already paid!) To simplify our administration, we will not send paper payment slips, so please check the Club website for instructions on electronic payments (which most of you are already doing anyway).



Jonathan Claman

Note: payment instructions are at mitclub.ch/?page_id=678

Past Events

Cultural events in the Geneva area (21 November 2015, and 17 April 2016)

Club member Howard Hornfeld has tried to enlighten us with a semi-serious dose of culture in the Geneva region. In the fall he organized a viewing of *Caught in the Net (CITN)*, a British farce by Ray Cooney, including a dinner and a back-stage tour before the show.

In the spring he offered a visit to the Geneva Amateur Operatic Society (GAOS) production of *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*. Unfortunately attendance at both events was low, but bravo to Howard for taking the initiative. Let's hope for a better turnout next time.



Jonathan Claman

Thanksgiving Potluck dinner (28 November 2015)

This year marked the fifth time that Bublu and her family have graciously opened their home to the Club for Thanksgiving. Over 30 club members and families and friends enjoyed a homemade range of food from the exotic to the traditional.

Conversations ran the usual MIT gamut from research on particle physics to locations for the next hiking adventures. The Club extends the warmest thank you to Bublu for making this into one of the Club's annual event pillars.



Jonathan Claman

Joint events with other Alumni clubs (various dates)

The frequency and diversity of shared events with other clubs is increasing. These events expose us to interesting activities, with minimal organization required, and give us chances to meet new people.

Some examples include: The Einstein Lectures at the University of Bern, a visit to the Swiss Capital with Trinity College, Cambridge, and Yale, the Gotthard Base Tunnel opening with ETH and LSE, and the ETH Symposium.



Jonathan Claman

CERN - Tour of the LHC and ATLAS (8 January 2016)

The tour started at 9am for 24 of us and at 11.15am for the other 24, coming from further away. We had decided to split the group in two in order to make it possible for everyone to visit the ATLAS cavern, open only till Feb. 11, when collisions at the LHC will make it radioactive and impossible to visit. However, the two tours had the same program, and joined together at 11.15am for an introductory talk on the work done at CERN, with a bit of emphasis on its flagship program: the LHC where the Higgs boson and the top quarks were discovered in the last few years.

In the morning (or early afternoon, for the second group), we visited the magnet facilities, where the LHC magnets were built and are currently still tested. Our guide showed us some of the magnets undergoing tests, and explained the details behind these 8-Tesla magnets.

After that, we visited the CERN control center, which serves as the control room for the LHC and the accelerators in the chain leading up to the LHC, such as the LINAC (linear accelerator), the booster, the PS (Proton Synchrotron) and the SPS (Super PS).

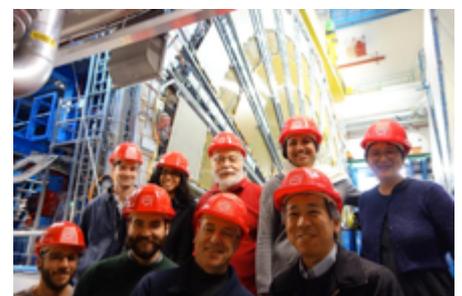
We continued our visit at the Microcosm museum, before heading to the ATLAS detector. There we had to split in groups of 12, due to limitations in access to the ATLAS

cavern. While one of the groups went down 150m to see the detector up close, the other group stayed up at the ATLAS Visitor center, where the guide explained how the detector works and showed us the ATLAS control room.

ATLAS is one of the detectors that was used to discover the Higgs boson (together with CMS, located in France, on the other side of the LHC ring). Both detectors have similar physics goals but were developed independently and using different technologies, thus minimizing the risk of common errors in design. ATLAS is the bigger detector, measuring 20m high and 40m long. It thus barely fits in the ATLAS cavern, making it hard to capture its size in pictures.

As people came out of the ATLAS visit, on the way out, some people took the opportunity to visit IDEA square, a technology transfer effort established in 2013 to enhance synergies between CERN engineers and physicists and industry, and located in Point 1, near ATLAS.

We would like to thank the CERN Visits Service and the ATLAS Secretariat for organizing the visit, transportation between the different sites and coordinating with all the physicists, engineers and students that served as our guides. The service organizes tours for 100,000 visitors a year, and helped us include an ATLAS visit, which is not currently part of their standard tour.



David Lopez Mateos

Lunch with Prof. Carlo Ratti (19 January 2016)

This year's annual WEF guest professor was Carlo Ratti from MIT's Department of Urban Studies and Planning, who took time and energy from a frenetic journey that started in Singapore and would proceed to Davos. Eleven alums from as far as Lausanne and Fribourg joined Carlo for lunch at Loft5 in Zürich, to hear this visionary architect and engineer in person.

In an interview with WIRED magazine, he states that his projects "focus on how new technologies are changing the way we understand, design and ultimately live in cities." Ratti, who prefers to design, rather than predict our future, sees the most significant recent development as "the internet, which by then will have entered not only into our lives, but also into our bodies."

In the age of big data, Ratti's research focuses on multiple aspects of the city. According to one of his studies, ride sharing could reduce the number of taxis in NYC dramatically (from 12k to 8k). Referring to his Davos message, he explained that the role of government will be to regulate and drive integration of software protocols and interfaces so the efficient use of urban resources (not just fresh air and vehicles, but the actual number of streets could be closed to traffic), can become reality. Today a driver needs to have several phones mounted on his dashboard to choose between all possible requests from proprietary platforms.

Without intervention, market forces and winner-take-all business models will perpetuate absurd practices like these.

He playfully imagined a mass customization of the urban experience, in which residents wish for "the topography of Prague, together with climate of Naples, the nightlife of Rio, and the fusion cooking of San Francisco".

His architecture firm, Ratti Associates is currently building Singapore's highest skyscraper: "Yes, we do a lot of brick and mortar work, but we want to create dynamic interactions in the cities they are in. Buildings should respond to us like human beings. Can heating, lighting, and cooling for example follow you interactively as you move in the rooms?"

We heard that the future of the city has two possible scenarios: 1) either be run centrally by a single corporation, or 2) an ecosystem which is run bottoms-up by its residents. Which one would we prefer?

And in spite of what we might expect from a data guru, Carlo Ratti sees technology as central to most change, but not exclusively so: "Why are we here together today? We could have had a skype lunch and talked about the same things. But you can't substitute or model experiences. All of us have come together for just that."



Bublu Thakur-Weigold

Verkehrshaus Visit and AGM (9 April 2016)

As a precursor to this year's Annual General Meeting (AGM) we met at the Verkehrshaus museum in Luzern. We had a personal tour guide show us some of the museum's most interesting highlights and give us extra insight into the exhibits. The Verkehrshaus (German for House of Transportation) opened in July 1959 and features all forms of transport as well as communications. It is Switzerland's most popular museum.

We got to see displays about rail, road (including automobiles and busses), aviation, marine transport, and of course no display of Swiss transportation would be complete without gondolas.

The displays cover modern as well as historical vehicles in all these different medium. The most modern is a new exhibit on the Gotthard Base Tunnel, which gave us a hands-on view of the incredible engineering and construction that went into this project.

The Verkehrshaus also has many other displays which we were not able to see due a lack of time, such as a Planetarium, an IMAX theater, and the ever-favorite Chocolate Adventure.

After a group lunch at the museum restaurant we proceeded to the meeting room (with an amazing view of the lake!) for the formal part of the AGM. 22 members participated in the discussions that covered the following topics:

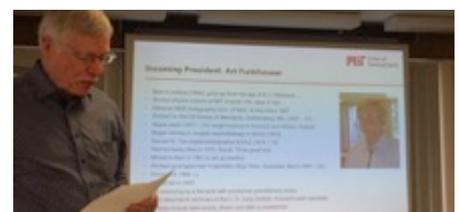
Events review: there were nine Club-organized events in 2015, not including informal events in Geneva and Basel, and also not including events organized by other clubs (LSE, Oxford, and others) where we were invited as guests.

Financials: a thorough review of 2015 results and 2016 budget was presented.

Exec Committee changes: Martin Hahn moved out of Switzerland and thus stepped down in his role as Club President. Art Funkhouser came in as our new President. Bublu Thakur-Weigold finished her role as Events Coordinator and Duane Hudgins succeeds her.

Thanks to Martin and Bublu for all their hard work over the past years, and welcome to Art and Duane!

Please contact us if you would like more information about the AGM.



Jonathan Claman

Bike Tour – Lake Thun and Lake Brienz (14-15 May 2016)

Despite a gloomy forecast, the 11th annual Whitsun Weekend bike tour drew out a large crowd of eager cyclers, with more joining throughout the day on Saturday. This year the group started out from Thun and completed a scenic figure-eight circuit around Lake Thun and Lake Brienz. Saturday morning started out with a climb along the west side of Lake Thun, followed by a drenching downpour as we continued towards Interlaken. I think our Club were the only bikers determined enough to be on the road, wrapped up in raingear and braving the deluge. On the “bright” side, the splashes from passing traffic made absolutely no difference to our level of wetness. We stopped for lunch in Interlaken and then headed out along the north coast of Lake Brienz. The sun peeked out for our afternoon ride, and we started to see the beautiful mountains surrounding us. We arrived perfectly timed at the Brienzburli hotel – just before the second rain shower.

That evening we enjoyed a hearty and happy meal together in the hotel restaurant.

Sunday began with a challenging but rewarding climb up to the waterfall at Giessbach. Our route was much quieter away from the main roads and through the woods. The weather was dry and we enjoyed dramatic views of the mountains as the clouds broke. A few of us visited Jeremy’s bike shop as we passed through Interlaken again before lunch in Neuhaus. We started out on the last leg of our trip along the east side of Lake Thun alternating getting sprinkled by the water coming off the mountain and passing through tunnels. By-and-by we all made it back to Thun and it was time to say good-byes and pack away our bikes into cars or onto trains. It was an enjoyable weekend; a big thanks to Michael for organizing, Jeremy for guiding, and Tony for driving the chase car!



Maria Tou

Alum Profile: Patrik Künzler

Editor's note: the Alum Profile is a new addition to the newsletter. Please contact us if you'd like to nominate yourself or someone you know for a feature in the next newsletter.

Club member Patrik Künzler invented a new type of chair that revolutionizes the way we sit. Visit his company's webpage at limbic-chair.com to learn more and to see the video of his recent TEDx talk.



Upcoming Events (full details and registration on the website)

9–11 Sept	Hike weekend in Saint Luc, Valais (reservation deadline: 10 July!)
30 September	Visit the IBM Industry Solutions Lab, in Rüschlikon near Zurich
22 October	Novartis Campus visit in Basel

Reminder of Recurring Events

Please consider joining one or more of these informal events to meet new people and learn about new topics. Information will be mailed out separately in advance.

Zurich after-work drinks

These are informal gatherings for members in the Zurich area to meet for drinks and some conversation. All alumni and friends are welcome. Times and locations are coordinated by a Doodle poll.

Basel after-work drinks

Similar in concept to the Zurich events, members of the Club who live in the Basel area can also relax and socialize with other MITers in the local area. Please sign up at the address below to stay informed.

Geneva lunch meetup

We started a monthly lunch meetup last year. This is an informal time to gather with other nearby club members, to chat, and to network. To get on our mailing list, please follow the link below.

Note that the **Sloan Speaker series** was discontinued during 2014 due to shortage of volunteers. We hope to revive it in 2016, but we need your help! Please contact us if you're interested.

Impressum

Contact Info	Website	Email
General	mitclub.ch	info (at) mitclub.ch
Facebook	facebook.com/group.php?gid=62565487029	ikedata (at) alum.mit.edu
LinkedIn	linkedin.com/grp/home?gid=4309708	ikedata (at) alum.mit.edu
Zurich Group	groups.google.com/group/mit_zurich	katie.silverthorne (at) gmail.com
Basel Group	groups.google.com/group/mit_basel	e.krug (at) bluewin.ch
Geneva Group	groups.google.com/group/mit_geneva	ikedata (at) alum.mit.edu

Executive Committee

Art Funkhouser (President)
 Makoto Ikeda (Communications)
 Duane Hudgins (Events)
 Jonathan Claman (Secretary)
 Frédéric Chambour (Treasurer)
 Nicolas Haenni (Auditor)
 Hans Hagenbuch (Deputy Auditor)

Alumni statistics (as of June 2016)

There are 545 MIT alumni in Switzerland
 24% have degrees in Management
 10% in Electrical Engineering & Computer Science
 79% are graduate degree holders
 Class year distribution:
 1929–1969: 10% 1990–1999: 27%
 1970–1979: 9% 2000–2009: 24%
 1980–1989: 16% 2010–2016: 13%

Please contact us by email if you'd like more details