

Welcome

Dear Club Members,

I was back on campus a couple months ago, my first time in over 15 years. What a thrill to see how much has changed (new buildings), yet how much has stayed the same (all the students hurrying to their next classes). Back in Switzerland our Club has a similar feeling,

with a fresh new set of energy yet with some of the same familiarity of years past. We are always happy to see enthusiastic participants at our events and look forward to welcoming new and familiar faces at one of the next events soon.



Jonathan Claman

Past Events

Twelfth Annual MIT Club Bike Tour (3-4 June 2017)

On June 3 the club kicked off the 12th annual Whitsun Weekend bike tour around the Vierwaldstättersee (Lake Lucerne). We enjoyed a beautiful sunny and warm day, starting from Luzern and riding clockwise through Küssnacht before pausing for lunch on the lakeside in Weggis. The rolling hills required some work for the climbs but provided ample opportunities to coast.

We continued soaking in the sun (and doing our best to protect ourselves from it) as we biked through Vitznau and Gersau before arriving in Brunnen. The views were spectacular and the roses were in full bloom as the road wound in and out of sight of the lake. We checked into the hotel in the afternoon with plenty of time before dinner for walking, ice cream, or a nap! Dinner included delicious food and great conversation on the hotel terrace – until the wind picked up and we hid inside.

Alas, we woke up on Sunday to steady rain, but a hearty breakfast fueled us up. First we rode the ferry across the lake to Treib and took the funicular to Seelisberg. From there, the ride was mostly downhill. The rain was a good opportunity to test our brakes, and we all made it safely to Beckenried, by which point the rain had abated. By popular vote we rode on to the Glasi-Restaurant in Hergiswil for lunch. For the final stretch back to Luzern, the weather finally cleared up, and the trip came to an end the way it had started.

Many thanks go to Marion and Marlis for providing cheerful support and plentiful snacks from the chase car. **And thanks of course to Michael for making the bike tour a great club tradition over the past 12 years!** Hope to see everyone (and more) next year.

Editor's note: more pics on our website.



Maria Tou

Afternoon at the Swiss National Bank (5 May 2017)

Neither labs nor robots nor fancy engineering were on display. Nevertheless, nearly 30 MIT alumni gathered at the Zurich head office of the Swiss National Bank (SNB) to learn about the institution that conducts monetary policy here in Switzerland.

It has been a while that the world of central banking was quiet or even dull. Starting with the international financial crisis and the collapse or near collapse of major financial institutions, central banks around the world have been in the spotlight. Switzerland and the SNB have been particularly challenged, due to the flight to safety that set in when the Euro area debt crisis broke and political uncertainty in Europe and beyond rose. In pursuing its core mandate of price stability, the SNB adopted an exchange rate floor vis-a-vis the Euro (and later abandoned it);

enormously expanded its balance sheet; and introduced negative interest rates. While the Swiss Franc's appreciation has been somewhat checked and monetary conditions in Switzerland have been stabilized, it is still too early to declare success.

Dr. Carlos Lenz, Head of Economic Affairs at the SNB, hosted the event and gave an insightful and fascinating overview over these and related topics. Indeed, the audience was so intrigued that Carlos didn't even get half way through his presentation because of many questions and lively discussions. Fortunately, however, he also joined for the Club sponsored apero at a nearby bar directly after the event. And the remaining slides were distributed a few days later. No more open questions, but lots of food for thought.



Dirk Niepelt

AGM at Zentrum Paul Klee (22 April 2017)

Around 15 members and a few spouses came to Bern for the Club's AGM, held at the Paul Klee Center zpk.org. Those who arrived at 11am were treated to an excellent tour of architect Renzo Piano's unique undulating structure, now 12 years old. Those who wished could see the newly opened exhibit of artworks presented in connection with the 100 year anniversary of the Russian revolution. From 2-4 pm, the AGM business meeting tackled the agenda, which had been prepared by the president and included reports from the secretary (sent from the US!), the

events manager, the treasurer, and the communications officer (who has agreed to stay on for another term). The main points for discussion were the proposed changes to the club statutes aimed at putting the status of honorary member on firm footing. Improvements were suggested and it was decided to put off voting for the new version of the statutes until the 2018 AGM. The Technorama in Winterthur was suggested as the venue for the next AGM; suggestions for alternate venues are welcome.



Art Funkhouser

Editor's note: copies of the AGM minutes are available to club members upon request from them the Club president.

IWC Schaffhausen Visit Day (17 February 2017)

A group of us visited IWC Schaffhausen on Friday afternoon 17 February and were met on arrival by Jutta Haller of Guest Relations and Hannes Pantli, an IWC Board Member, who has been with the company for some 45 years.

Herr Pantli gave an overview of IWC's history from its founding by the Boston watchmaker Florentine Ariosto Jones in 1868 to sell pocket watches to the US. Notable early events included the first digital watch in 1885 and the first wrist-watch in 1899 which used the movement from a ladies' pocket watch. The first Pilot's Watch, still IWC's best-known range, was produced in 1936, and later adopted by the Luftwaffe and the British Royal Air Force. The first Portugieser, also a mainstay today, was produced in 1939. Although IWC co-developed a quartz movement in the 1960s (the Beta-21 was large but accurate to 5 sec/month), this was a difficult time and IWC finally chose to continue making only mechanical watches and this remains the case today.

IWC ceased to be family-owned in 1977 when it was bought by the German VDO. A remarkable period of innovation followed with the development of various 'complications': watches with added features such as perpetual calendars and compasses. IWC also pioneered titanium and ceramic cases. IWC withdrew from making ladies' watches at this time, something that has only changed in the last few months with the launch of new Da Vinci watches.

After the purchase by Richemont in 2000, IWC introduced 8-day mechanical and other new movements. Eventually all movements will be made in-house with additional manufacturing facilities in Nerischausen, north of Schaffhausen, opening later this year. At the same time, IWC has continuously introduced new models in each of its watch families, typically announcing new ones at the SIHH Show in Geneva each January.

Frau Haller then guided us through the IWC Museum. We saw examples of the early Jones calibers from the company's founding, early examples of the Pilot's and Portugieser watches from before WWII, tiny ladies' watches from the 1970s and early Portofino watches from the 1980s which established the trend to wearing larger watches. We also saw two of the ledgers that record complete information on every watch made since the company's founding.

We then visited the watch ateliers to view movement and complete watch assembly. Most are assembled in batches of 10 with each watchmaker performing around three operations. The most expensive watches, including the complications, are assembled by one watchmaker and can take up to one year to complete. Each purchaser of such a watch is invited by IWC to visit Schaffhausen to see his watch being assembled. The impression was given of people working with an exceptionally high level of physical dexterity and mental concentration.

Herr Pantli then rejoined us to answer our questions and to present the complete IWC product range, giving us the opportunity, however fleeting, to put an IWC watch on our wrist. The afternoon had been a fascinating insight into a very specialized technology and a culture of typically understated Swiss excellence. We had gained a special affinity with a very unusual company and a prestigious brand - and perhaps an aspiration - one day - to own an IWC watch!

IWC
SCHAFFHAUSEN
SINCE 1868



Duane Hudgins

MISTI Switzerland highlight

Not all MIT students' research experiences happen on campus. For **Maryam Zekavat '15**, the chance to blend her biological engineering studies and her interest in computational physiological modeling came in Switzerland, working as an MISTI intern for Roche in Basel, together with our Club member Dr. Norm Mazer '74,

MD-PhD '78. Maryam's work on creating a new computational model to understand Age-related Macular Degeneration (AMD) may help researchers develop new treatments in the future.

Please see the full *Slice of MIT* article at slice.mit.edu (search for "Maryam") to learn more.



Jonathan Claman

Upcoming events

Stay tuned for our next round of events: check our Club website for details as they are published

- **Tour of the Roche Tower**, happening just after this newsletter goes to press in mid-June
- **New Student Sendoff** in August, location TBD
- **Weekend Hike** in September, Lotschental
- **Annual Thanksgiving** potluck dinner in November, this time in a new location

Reminder of Recurring Events

Please consider joining some of our informal events to meet new people and learn about new topics. We have groups in **Zurich**, **Basel**, and **Geneva**, and are always open to new locations and/or additional events within the existing areas. Send us a note if you are 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