

## Bimonthly Newsletter – November 2009

### Dear Alumni,

Two months after the first newsletter we can proudly announce a lot of progress in the MoT AA organisation. We doubled the MoTAA committee (wo)manpower with two new members! Mariangela Accera (MoT08) accepted to take up the role of general secretary. Damien Douchet (MoT01) will be occupying the role of financial officer. Moreover the full committee was elected on the General Assembly held on October 30<sup>th</sup> at the EPFL.

The General Assembly can be called a success. About 20 persons were present. The election of the current committee was celebrated with a dinner in restaurant "Le Casino" in Morges. For more details see the GA minutes, attached to this newsletter.



General Assembly – October 30<sup>th</sup> 2009

An important announcement made by Jean Micol on the General Assembly is that the holders of a postgraduate degree in MoT are finally recognized by the **EPFL Alumni group on LinkedIn**. The group has already more than 3600 members. You are all encouraged to become a member of this group (<http://www.linkedin.com/e/gis/3703/7C5A62703EE3>). It will definitely reinforce your professional networking and vice versa this group can also benefit from the entrepreneurial skills you have!

### Looking forward

We are now a strong fresh team and ready to attack the different issues! Our first focus was to establish and complete the calendar for the quarterly meetings. Like this you can already bookmark the dates in your agenda (see below)! These quarterly meetings include the graduation ceremony, and two company visits programmed for next year. We will conclude the "academic" year with a social event, while tying links with the other alumni organisations. As creating and maintaining a strong network is one of the key objectives of our association!

Our next effort will entirely go to create means to keep in touch and develop communication. Hence we are maintaining the effort of writing the bi-monthly newsletter. Any input from your side is more than welcome. If you wish to contribute to one of the next newsletters, please drop us a line. Another tool will be definitely the website. We made progress on the layout and content and made a start to have it created. We therefore have good hopes to launch the first version mid January next year. A few other ideas are in the pipeline as well, but we first want to establish and maintain communication tools again.

We do hope to see that you enjoy this 2<sup>nd</sup> newsletter. We already want to wish you a great holiday season!

The MoTAA committee.

### MoT Social Event: From Taney Lake up to Grammont, a fantastic trip!

Just like the Quarterly Events Program, the MoT Social Program started off with great success. On October 4<sup>th</sup>, the lucky MoTies who joined the trip to Taney could have not expected better weather to enjoy the beauty of this gorgeous region.

At the starting point in Miex, 10 brave MoTies immediately showed their determination by taking the hardest way to the destination: a steep but delightful path across the woods that lead in one hour to the enchanting plateau of Taney Lake.

## Bimonthly Newsletter – November 2009



MoTies on the Top – Taney trip Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> 2009

After a short rest by the lake, the group undertook the extra hike towards Grammont. The loveliness of the landscape, emphasized by the generous sun, relieved every pain to the top where the amazing view over the Lemman Lake definitely rewarded Moties for their effort.

A delicious fondue in a charming chalet concluded this wonderful day that hopefully will herald numerous similar events in the MoT Social Season 2009-2010.

### Upcoming events

**2<sup>nd</sup> Social Event: Meet up with students of MoT10 during a skiing trip** on December 6<sup>th</sup> 2009. For last minute inscriptions please contact [mot@epfl.ch](mailto:mot@epfl.ch) (Martine Thiery).

**2<sup>nd</sup> Quarterly event: The MoT 09 Graduation Ceremony** will take place on December 10<sup>th</sup> 2009 at 17h30 in Anthropole Building, Auditorium 1129 on the the University of Lausanne Campus. More information on the ceremony and inscriptions on: <http://www.hec.unil.ch/emba/GraduationCeremony>  
The MoTAA will organize a dinner after the graduation ceremony in restaurant "Minuit Soleil" Rue Centrale 23 - 1003 Lausanne (021 323 53 64). **Please inscribe on doodle before December 7th** <http://www.doodle.com/nmkmuf8a2gh5kmkk>

### 2010 Agenda

**3<sup>rd</sup> quarterly Event: Visit to CERN - Geneva on March 13<sup>th</sup> 2010 at 2pm.**

CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research, is the world's leading laboratory for particle physics. It has its headquarters in Geneva. One of its major experiments, the Large Hadron Collider better known as LHC, was successfully restarted on Friday the 19<sup>th</sup> November 2009. For us the opportunity to plan a visit to this leading scientific institute! Details on the visit will be communicated later, inscriptions will start from mid January and the number of participants is limited to 30. More information on CERN on <http://public.web.cern.ch/public/>

**4<sup>th</sup> Quarterly Event: Visit to FLEXCELL - Yverdon-les-Bains on April 29<sup>th</sup> 2010**

An important opportunity to learn more about the renewable energy technologies will be given to the MoT AA by Flexcell, a leading company in the Photovoltaic industry, founded in 2000 by two MoT 98 Alumni. The company kindly accepted to receive the MoT AA next April 29<sup>th</sup> for a visit of their plant. The visit is organized thanks to the aid of **Frédéric Bichsel (MoT 04)** who has been the key promoter of this event. We gratefully acknowledge the Company Flexcell for their kind availability and would like to extend our special thanks to Frédéric for his decisive support to the MoT AA events promotion. <http://www.flexcell.com/>

### MoTies on the move

This item features an interview with Riccardo Nissato. He holds a Masters in Pharmacology from the Faculty of Pharmacy René Descartes (University Paris V), a Ph.D. in Biology from the University of

## Bimonthly Newsletter – November 2009

Geneva, a post-doctorate at École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, and graduated in 2008 from the MBA - Management of Technology (EPFL-HEC).



Riccardo at the MoT Summer Program in Austin (TX)

His “previous academic life” gave him the opportunity to publishing scientific articles and book chapters, as well as working and teaching in universities and hospitals in Europe, the United States and South Africa. With time, he obtained more responsibilities and managing duties and initiated & managed several collaborations with multiple Pharmaceutical Corporations, Med-Techs, and start-ups. These experiences clearly settled the bases of his interest for management and aspirations for the private industry, especially in Drug and Business Development.

To further explore this new professional horizon, he moved to the private sector as Project Manager and implemented his managerial skills with a formal & solid specialization by joining the MoT in 2007. His interests for the MoT program were fairly straight given:

- unique MBA program that specifically focuses on the area of technology,
- outstanding reputation of the schools HEC-EPFL,
- professors and teaching relevance,
- students’ variety and experience,
- professional outcome from former MoT students.

Before and during the MoT he was Project Manager in a Public Private Partnership and performed consultancy for a large Swiss hospital. In fact, at the end of the MoT he had several job opportunities and was lucky to choose the one that did fit perfectly with his scientific expertise, MoT training, and professional aspirations. He joined a Biotech company based in San Diego California that decided to open a daughter company in Switzerland. Currently he has the position of Director of Manufacturing and Clinical Business Development. For him the MoT responded in different ways to his needs, and is not a question easy to answer. As a first thought, he believes the most relevant lectures turned out to be those related to financial issues, such as company & product valuation, sales/costs forecast, negotiation, interaction with investors... and then the list starts covering all the trainings provided by the MoT and issues in his job.

Riccardo concludes: “Indeed, I see the MoT experience as a big box that you open on daily bases to pick-up the tool that you need ranging for specific issue to general management. Interestingly, the combination of a very rigorous scientific background (PhD) and more general skills (MoT) provides multidisciplinary ability to understanding and interfacing very different domains.”

**Disclaimer:** This bimonthly newsletter contains information about the activities of the Alumni Association, stories on MoT success, and might present you with business opportunities. Feel free to forward this Newsletter to those who might be interested to follow the MoTAA activities. Should you wish to stop receiving this newsletter, please send an email to [mot.alumni@gmail.com](mailto:mot.alumni@gmail.com) with UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line. If you wish to edit an article for one of the coming newsletters, would like to see a topic or news item addressed, or would just like to share some information, let us know on the same email address. The board of editors includes: Stefanos Konandreas (President), Ann Van Lysebetten (Vice President), Mariangela Accera (General Secretary) and Damien Douchet (Financial Officer).