

## Bimonthly Newsletter – March 2010

**Dear Alumni,**

Spring is around the corner and with it the MoT AA brings you several events and initiatives. In this newsletter we will cover the following topics:

- MoT AA Web page progress
- Geneva Meetup organization – Tash Giles
- Gradués des HEC organization
- Becoming an MoT AA active member
- Past event: MoT field trip - CERN visit
- Upcoming events
- MoTies on the Move - Lucia Grueter interview

### 1. MoT AA Web page progress

As you probably noted the MoT AA web site [www.mot-alumni.com](http://www.mot-alumni.com) is still under construction, but it is a matter of days now before it will be running again with a new look.

The new website will consist of two major sections, Public access & Intranet access

**Public access:** will contain info on the agenda, MoT AA contact details, newsletters events archive, etc.

**Intranet:** before summer, an intranet section will be developed that will only be available to active members (members paying their contribution). It will allow you to do the following things;

- update your profiles, and near future career objectives
- view the details on other members
- a forum to facilitate information exchange on entrepreneurship
- allow access to documents, live streams of events, and presentations made by the MoT AA

**We are already using the email address provided by the website, so please discard the address [mot.alumni@gmail.com](mailto:mot.alumni@gmail.com), and use [info@mot-alumni.com](mailto:info@mot-alumni.com).**

### 2. Geneva Meetup organization – Natasha Giles

The MoT AA would like to introduce the person responsible for organizing the `Genève entrepreneur Meetup` group, Miss Natasha Giles. Meetup is a monthly meeting that is held to bring together entrepreneurs in the Geneva area. The meetup even has three sub-events, a speech on a specific theme; informal elevator type pitch by individuals that want to share their business idea which is then followed up with feedback on the ideas. It is an excellent occasion to meet local entrepreneurs, people with ideas, and investors in a laidback environment.



Stefanos Konandreas & Natasha Giles

**Meetup website:** <http://entrepreneur.meetup.com/1502/>

**LinkIn Meetup Group:** [http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=2707062&trk=myg\\_ugrp\\_ovr](http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=2707062&trk=myg_ugrp_ovr)

**Tash Giles:** [tashagiles@hotmail.com](mailto:tashagiles@hotmail.com)

**Events:** last Tuesday of every month at Seven Arts Bar 25 Rue de Monthoux 1201 Geneva



### 3. Gradués HEC organization

Contact with the **MBA alumni section of the "Gradués HEC"** organisation was made. As MoTAA member you are invited to their events.

**Agenda:** <http://www.gradueshec.ch/hec/MBAEvents.html>

**Address:** Bureau 209 B Internef CH - 1015 Lausanne Suisse

**Tel:** +41 21 692 33 86

**E-mail:** [info@gradueshec.ch](mailto:info@gradueshec.ch)



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### 4. Becoming an MoT AA active member

Becoming an MoT active member is worth the annual fee of 50 CHF even if you live abroad. Bellow is a list of benefits you will receive for becoming an active member:

- get full access to the MoT website intranet
- get free access or reduced rates to MoT events such as the Speed Networking
- receive an MoT Alumni Association pen
- receive privileged information by the committee members on useful information
- most importantly you will be supporting a committee that works hard to organize fun events and keep the MoT network strong and alive!

Should you not have had the chance to become 2010 active member, details can be found in the box bellow. Note: Who pays before the end of April will receive an MoTAA membership pen!

#### MoT AA Lausanne

PostFinance Account n°: 17-747224-4

IBAN: CH04 0900 0000 1774 7224 4

BIC (=SWIFT): POFICHBEXX

A pink slip can also be sent to you; require it by email at [info@mot-alumni.com](mailto:info@mot-alumni.com)



### 5. Past Event: MoT field trip - CERN visit (MoT AA 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarterly Event)

On March 13<sup>th</sup> 24 enthusiastic MoTies met at CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research, the world's leading laboratory for particle physics. We went on a 3 hour tour, starting off with a bit of an old fashioned introduction. At least it gave the opportunity to understand what CERN is about and how research is carried out. After the theory we set off to SM18, a large hall where all magnets (more than 2000!) were tested before they were inserted into the LHC or Large Hadron Collider. Quite impressive! As LHC was turned on again just a couple of weeks back, no underground visits were allowed. Luckily the Atlas visitor centre could give us an impression of what one of the experiments on LHC looks like.

This large detector of 40m length by 20m diameter captures all debris coming from proton proton collisions on LHC. It is built to understand the origin of matter or more precisely the origin of mass (the famous Higgs particle). We could throw a glimpse in the control room. Incredible that about 3000 people work on this experiment. A truly international collaboration!

The CERN visit was concluded with a dinner in the Geneva Yacht Club where we enjoyed a nice Chinese fondue and had the chance to exchange ideas with Natasha from the Geneva Meetup organization.



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**6. Upcoming MoT AA events**

**FlexCell**

Our next quarterly Event will be a visit to Flexcell which is a leading company in the Photovoltaic industry. Flexcell is based Yverdon-les-Bains and it was founded in 2000 by two MoT 98 Alumni.

Thanks to their unique technology, the company has made it possible to use a thin flexible plastic substrate instead of glass for the production of solar cells. Within a few years Flexcell has emerged into a high-tech photovoltaic company. The event will start with a 30 minutes Company presentation, and will be followed by a tour through the factory where photovoltaic films are produced and then integrated to different applications. Depending on the weather conditions, we may also have the chance to visit to the Company’s solar roof installation.



After the visit we will go for dinner to **Restaurant l'Isle - Moulins 30 - 1400 Yverdon les Bains**. Please, book the date and join us! More information on the visit can be found below:

**Date / Time:** April 29<sup>th</sup> at 17:00  
**Location:** Flexcell / Yverdon-les-Bains  
**Event PDF:** [http://www.mot-alumni.com/files/newsletters/FLEXCELL\\_Visit\\_Flyer.pdf](http://www.mot-alumni.com/files/newsletters/FLEXCELL_Visit_Flyer.pdf)  
**Inscriptions:** <http://www.doodle.com/p7gpnndss6misfwz> (before 15/04/2010)

**Tour of Lac Lemman MoT-Style**

**MOT Social**  
**May 14-15-16 2010**

**Friday program**  
 Geneva – Thonon  
 \* Dinner & Sleep at Thonon

**Saturday program**  
 Thonon – Montreux  
 \* Lunch at Montreux  
 Montreux – Lausanne  
 \* Dinner, party & Sleep at Lausanne

**Sunday program**  
 Lausanne – Nyon  
 \* Swim at various places & BBQ  
 Nyon-Geneve  
 \* end of journey



**Dates:** May 14-15-16  
**Location(s):** Geneva - Thonon – Montreux – Lausanne – Rolle - Geneva  
**Event description:** Sail from port to port and have lunch, dinner, drinks, parties and even a swim in the lake with various MoT alumni living near or on Lac Lemman. The event will end with a BBQ by the lake – Location and more details about the event will be published soon.  
**e-mail:** [skonandr@hotmail.com](mailto:skonandr@hotmail.com)

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### Speed Networking



**Location:** Hotel d'Angleterre / Ouchy <http://www.anglerterre-residence.ch/fr/index.php#>

**Event description:** The MoT AA Speed Networking is going to become one of our main yearly events where we will do our best to bring together previous and current students in contact with Head hunters & Human Resources from recruiting companies. This year the venue will take place at the Hotel d'Angleterre located in the port of Ouchy, Lausanne.

**Date:** to be defined (June-July)

**Time:** to be defined

**Participant Profiles:** MoT graduates and current MoT Students

### HR Conference: "how to make the right hiring decision for your company".

Dr. Nicola Tomatis, CEO of BlueBotics SA will talk about his experience in hiring people for his company and explain how theory applies to small companies' reality.

**Date / Time:** September at 18:30 - **Location:** Odyssea Building – EPFL - Lausanne  
More details about the event and inscription will be published soon.

**BlueBotics website:** [www.bluebotics.com](http://www.bluebotics.com)

### 7. MoTies on the Move - Lucia Grueter

When people apply for an MBA they are likely looking for a career move; from the middle ranks of an organization to a leading position in a dynamic growing company or from technology to business. The topic of this section is "*how the Executive MBA in MoT enables career change*".

We had the chance to interview **Lucia Grueter (MoT 09)**, who graduated from the program last December and currently holds the position of **VP Operations at ITS Power**.

Lucia's professional life started as a medical lab technician. After an MSc in Chemistry, she obtained a PhD in Experimental Physics (Molecular Electronics) at the University of Basel and recorded four years of R&D experience in Pharmaceutical Industry, working for Novartis and Tillotts. During this time, she applied for the MoT which should support a career change.



Lucia Grueter – MoT 09

During the MoT she took the chance to deepen her knowledge in Photovoltaic (PV) technology with help of an internship and a business plan in the PV sector. Eventually she achieved a big step in her career

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taking the lead of all non-technical issues at ITS Power, subsidiary of Innotech Solar AS, a Norwegian start-up in PV technology founded in 2008. About this new challenge, Lucia says:

*"Innotech Solar has been founded by a team of highly experienced PV people who are very professional in their approach. The company has now about 50 employees at different locations: Narvik, Oslo, Munich, Halle, Shanghai and Zurich. In Zurich we are 4 people: our task is the planning, financing and construction and of solar power plants. I am taking care of the non-technical part like preparing business plans for the power plants, dealing with investors for financing, overviewing cash-flow and liquidity as well as our project companies. I can apply the MoT learnings on a daily basis – so the MoT was an excellent investment for me."*

From R&D to Business Operations, and moreover from Pharma Industry to Photovoltaics, this is indeed a real career change. So Lucia continues on how she went through this move:

*"The Pharmaceutical Industry did not completely satisfy my expectations for different reasons: I realized that the large company system, with its immense bureaucracy, did not match with my personality. Further, I did not want to be restricted to R&D, but also get to know the business part. On the other side, I was very interested in Photovoltaics and took the chance to visit trade shows and read a lot about the topic, which lead me to the decision to become a professional in this area."*

*"Such a change" – It appeared clear to Lucia – "requires some work and additional qualifications, so I had to do something. I checked a lot of MBA programs, also abroad, but none of these programs inspired me fully. Until I was told by a friend about the MoT, that revealed to me to be the perfect match with my wishes. My interest in the program was sparked for multiple reasons:*

- 1. Focus on entrepreneurship and technology management,*
- 2. Internship opportunity that would bring me the first step in my career change,*
- 3. Intense program that, compared to others, has the advantage to shorten the transition period,*
- 4. International environment that allowed me to meet people with a highly diversified background.*

Lucia achieved her MBA program with an internship at Flexcell SA, founded by two MoT former students. During this period she could deepen her knowledge in the field of Photovoltaics. This experience together with the MBA teachings ultimately enabled her to obtain a new job that perfectly matched her expectations. About how determining the MoT was to this career change and what it brought to her personal development, Lucia says:

*"The MoT was perfect for me, I think I maximized the profit, not only on a professional level, but also on a personal one: I got to know great people, had a wonderful time all along the program and of course a great experience in China. I could spend some time in the French part of Switzerland, could improve my French, while practicing English at the same time, and enlarge my network. Last but not least I met my boyfriend in the MoT, that is what we call a perfect asset acquisition..."*

We conclude our interview with Lucia asking to share a final thought for current and future MoT students: *"It is true that even the highest graded MBA program will not necessarily mean access to new opportunities for a graduate. We are all responsible for our lives and this should encourage every student and stimulate their entrepreneurial sense to maximize the profit".*

**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. 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).