PORTRAITS OF SIX SWISS COMPANIES

Discreet and efficient SME innovation

FABRICE MERENDA (MT’08)
Product leader at Neuchâtel firm ARCoptix
Dear Alumni,

You may have read it in the papers or heard about it on social networks: two major diplomatic events put your School and its campus in the spotlight in April. At the beginning of the month, after weeks of intense international negotiations on the shores of Lake Geneva, EPFL hosted a ceremony to announce the framework agreement on Iran’s nuclear capabilities. The fact that EPFL was chosen for this historic event is a great honour. It underscores the extent to which EPFL has become more than a university; it is a player on the global stage.

This extraordinary press conference took place in the Rolex Learning Centre on Thursday, April 2nd. Present were U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and the foreign ministers of the major nations involved – including Iran, Russia, China, France, the UK and Germany. More than 300 journalists and news organisations from around the world attended, further reinforcing this building’s image as a focal point for major events.

Two weeks later, on April 16th, François Hollande stopped by our campus during the first French state visit to Switzerland in 16 years. This visit allowed the French President to inquire about the Swiss model for education and innovation. With his large delegation of ministers, including Segolène Royal and Najat Vallaud-Belkacem, Hollande expressed interest in everything from the promotion of learning to the success of our start-ups and major research projects.

The occasion also allowed EPFL and France’s École Polytechnique to sign an agreement reinforcing their cooperation in education, research, entrepreneurship and innovation. This alliance will bring Polytechnique into the Network of Excellence in Engineering Sciences of the French-speaking Community (RESCIF). Launched by EPFL and the Swiss government, this network unites 14 French-speaking technological universities.

These exciting and fascinating events are a great credit to EPFL. If we were able to host them it was thanks not only to the School’s hard-working teams but also to you, our graduates and ambassadors, and the image of EPFL that you convey across the continents. I thank you all sincerely: this success is also yours.

Patrick Aebischer,
President of EPFL
Dear graduates,

Based on the positive feedback we received on the first edition of your new, fully revamped and enhanced magazine, we are delighted to see its changes have been a success. In this second edition you will discover that the magazine’s transformation mirrors the evolution of EPFL Alumni, which recently became a professional service devoted to assisting EPFL graduates throughout their careers. To better meet your needs we have consolidated our support for innovation and start-ups, and created a new career service offering.

The EPFL Alumni team in charge of innovation support has been reinforced by the arrival of Pierre Dorsaz. He graduated in 2008 from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva, and occupied the post of Project Manager at swissnex Boston from 2009 to 2014. Pierre Dorsaz joined us in March, and took charge of our coaching, mentoring and start-up investment activities.

Also we have created a new service to provide career support for EPFL graduates after they leave the School. The offering includes CV workshops, interview preparation, continuous education and career reorientation. François de Leymarie will be on hand to answer graduates’ questions. He graduated in engineering from the University of Technology of Compiègne in 2003, and after spending time as an engineer in the industrial sector, worked as a recruiter. I would like us all to extend the warmest of welcomes to them both, and hope you enjoy reading the magazine.

Annelies Garcia, head of EPFL Alumni
The Canadian branch of EPFL Alumni invited EPFL graduates to the first Swiss-Canada Innovation Day (SCID) on 24 February 2015, on the topic of “Healthy and Active Aging”, attended by some 30 people in Montreal.

The EPFL Alumni Eastern Switzerland Association invited its members to discover the wonders of the Masoala Halle zoo in Zurich – a biotope which has reproduced the tropical forest habitat of Madagascar – during a guided tour on Wednesday, March 18, 2015. Some 20 graduates took part in the visit, which was followed by a meal at Altes Klösterli, a nearby restaurant.

More than 30 graduates met up on campus on Tuesday 17 March 2015 to visit the Plasma Physics Research Centre (CRPP). The CRPP is the main Swiss laboratory studying plasma, with a focus on fusion. It aims to develop both the theoretical and experimental aspects of this energy source, based on research projects and training.

The EPFL Alumni Shanghai branch gathered 29 participants for its spring reunion on 21 March 2015. After discovering the “Legend of Rolex” at the showroom the brand has opened in the city, graduates continued the evening in a restaurant, giving them the chance to network and discuss their experiences.
Creation of a career service at EPFL Alumni

EPFL Alumni has been offering its contributors a whole range of services since May 2015 to help them throughout their careers. We take a look.

To successfully carry out this project, EPFL Alumni has developed its team by hiring François de Leymarie, an engineer who graduated from the University of Technology of Compiègne in Mechanical Systems Engineering in 2003. After spending time as an engineer in the industrial sector, he has worked as a recruiter for agencies in Paris, London, Dublin and Lausanne for the last seven years. François de Leymarie will be on hand to answer graduates’ questions and will guide them in their research.

This new position meets an increasingly urgent demand from EPFL graduates, who are faced with a constantly changing professional world. Their studies at EPFL provide them with highly-specialised knowledge, but also give them an overall perspective on the world of engineering, and therefore a better understanding of the professional world, enabling them to adapt quickly.

To ensure the success of this project, EPFL Alumni has considerably developed its career services:
- Student/graduate evenings giving graduates a chance to meet students from their branch and answer their questions.
- A mentoring programme for students to benefit from advice from graduates.
- An innovation assistance and start-up support programme through evenings on mentoring, investment and networking, and through the annual Seed Night event.
- Sector-specific events (IT, life sciences, transport, etc.) enabling efficient networking.

EPFL Alumni would also like to improve the potential for recruitment and strategy development within the community by the end of 2015. This project is currently underway, so we would love to hear your ideas and comments.
The Network of

Metin Arditi

Since obtaining his qualification in engineering and physics at the EPFL, Unesco Special Envoy and writer Metin Arditi has dedicated his life to a variety of causes. He looks back on the people who marked his career.

A

As an author, patron, physicist and businessman, Metin Arditi has led a multi-faceted career. After working in the real estate sector and teaching at the EPFL for several years, Geneva-born Arditi is now committed to the peace process. Appointed Special Envoy for Unesco in 2014, he has since made several trips to the Middle East, including to Israel and Palestine. “During these trips I try to restore an intercultural dialogue through discrete but profound initiatives, which touch upon essential values such as dignity and respect. The arts, writing and music are incredibly efficient tools for achieving this goal.”

Arditi is also a particularly committed patron, and has supported culture and art in Geneva for many years, while devoting himself to writing. He unveiled a new novel (his fifteenth!) in January 2015, entitled “Juliette dans son bain” (which translates as “Juliette, elusive consolation”).

He also mentions Adeline Meier, Director of the Book and Press Fair. “I have known Adeline for three years, and we get on very well. She is direct, clear and always available.”

Metin Arditi also knows journalists including: Danielle Falcoumo, journalist for Le Hebdo and chairwoman of the Gepolva Book and Press Fair. “She is the person who asked me of chair the jury of the Fair. She is an astonishing person. She managed to make the Fair a top-level, highly elegant event, which is no mean feat!”

The other person who marked his life is the Swiss philosopher Jeanne Hersch. “I met her in 1990, when I was 45 and she was 80. Her books and our discussions changed my life. They helped me grow and to consider the human condition differently. We spent countless hours talking together. She is the catalyst that provided Arditi with unwavering support. He is an extraordinarily honest and courageous man.”

His past mentors

The first is Bernard Vitry, former chairman of the EPFL and a close friend of Arditi right up until his death. “I always admired his humanism and his impressive strength of character. I will never forget the enormous trust placed in me when I was just a student.”

The second is Joe Koury, former director of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. “I truly admire Eva. Originally from Armenia, she is a talented pianist and was able to use her personality and strength of character to rise to the head of the Geneva Conservatory of Music when she was just 32.”

When it comes to writing, Metin Arditi always draws his inspiration from the classics, such as Proust, Kafka, Nietzsche, Tintoretto, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, and the arts, literature, the Middle East and North Africa division at the FDFA. “He is one of the most cultured people I know. I appreciate his brilliant, sharp mind, and I enjoy his company enormously.”

His friends from Unesco and the FDFA

Paul Garnier Head of the Representation Office of Switzerland in Ramallah. “Paul is a close friend with whom I share so much in the field.”

Wolfgang Anandis Brechbill Head of the Middle East and North Africa division at the FDFA. “We share a lot of values and interests, such as the arts, literature, the Middle East and Switzerland. We discuss a great deal together. I consider this highly cultured man to be a very dear friend.”

Wolfgang Anandis Brechbill Head of the Middle East and North Africa division at the FDFA. “We share a lot of values and interests, such as the arts, literature, the Middle East and Switzerland. We discuss a great deal together. I consider this highly cultured man to be a very dear friend.”

Wolfgang Anandis Brechbill Head of the Middle East and North Africa division at the FDFA. “We share a lot of values and interests, such as the arts, literature, the Middle East and Switzerland. We discuss a great deal together. I consider this highly cultured man to be a very dear friend.”

Wolfgang Anandis Brechbill Head of the Middle East and North Africa division at the FDFA. “We share a lot of values and interests, such as the arts, literature, the Middle East and Switzerland. We discuss a great deal together. I consider this highly cultured man to be a very dear friend.”

His friends from the foundation

Paul Garnier Head of the Representation Office of Switzerland in Ramallah. “Paul is a close friend with whom I share so much in the field.”

Jean-Frédéric Jauslin Director of the Geneva Conservatory of Music when she was 60. “Jean-Frédéric Jauslin is a man full of energy, humour, and has a strong sense of business. He has supported me enormously in my activities with Unesco.”

Jean-Frédéric Jauslin Director of the Geneva Conservatory of Music when she was 60. “Jean-Frédéric Jauslin is a man full of energy, humour, and has a strong sense of business. He has supported me enormously in my activities with Unesco.”

Jean-Frédéric Jauslin Director of the Geneva Conservatory of Music when she was 60. “Jean-Frédéric Jauslin is a man full of energy, humour, and has a strong sense of business. He has supported me enormously in my activities with Unesco.”
The expertise of EPFL graduates at Lombard Odier

The Geneva-based private bank employs a large number of EPFL graduates. Thanks to their expertise and critical thinking, they occupy a variety of positions, from technical development to asset management. We profile a few examples.

Ariane Bender

44 years old

Head of Risk Management for the Private Client Investment Service at Lombard Odier.

Holding a Mathematical Engineering degree from the EPFL (1996) and a Master’s in the same subject from the EPFL and the Ecole Polytechnique de Paris (2001), Ariane Bender is Head of Risk Management for the bank’s Private Client Investment Service. “After the EPFL, I started my professional career in administration and the Federal Statistics Office in Berne. Later on, I returned to university. The Master’s in Mathematical Engineering included both a theoretical education and an internship in a company. I immersed myself in the world of finance at Lombard Odier. The bank then hired me as a quantitative analyst.” Bender then joined the Risk Management team as a group leader. She was in charge of developing tools used to monitor financial risks for both activities on the trading floor and the Group’s treasury management.

“...The ability to work as a part of a team is a key skill.”

Holding a Mathematical Engineering degree from the EPFL (1996) and a Master’s in the same subject from the EPFL and the Ecole Polytechnique de Paris (2001), Ariane Bender is Head of Risk Management for the bank’s Private Client Investment Service. “After the EPFL, I started my professional career in administration and the Federal Statistics Office in Berne. Later on, I returned to university. The Master’s in Mathematical Engineering included both a theoretical education and an internship in a company. I immersed myself in the world of finance at Lombard Odier. The bank then hired me as a quantitative analyst.” Bender then joined the Risk Management team as a group leader. She was in charge of developing tools used to monitor financial risks for both activities on the trading floor and the Group’s treasury management.

“...The ability to work as a part of a team is a key skill.”

Holding a Mathematical Engineering degree from the EPFL (1996) and a Master’s in the same subject from the EPFL and the Ecole Polytechnique de Paris (2001), Ariane Bender is Head of Risk Management for the bank’s Private Client Investment Service. “After the EPFL, I started my professional career in administration and the Federal Statistics Office in Berne. Later on, I returned to university. The Master’s in Mathematical Engineering included both a theoretical education and an internship in a company. I immersed myself in the world of finance at Lombard Odier. The bank then hired me as a quantitative analyst.” Bender then joined the Risk Management team as a group leader. She was in charge of developing tools used to monitor financial risks for both activities on the trading floor and the Group’s treasury management.

“...The ability to work as a part of a team is a key skill.”

Holding a Mathematical Engineering degree from the EPFL (1996) and a Master’s in the same subject from the EPFL and the Ecole Polytechnique de Paris (2001), Ariane Bender is Head of Risk Management for the bank’s Private Client Investment Service. “After the EPFL, I started my professional career in administration and the Federal Statistics Office in Berne. Later on, I returned to university. The Master’s in Mathematical Engineering included both a theoretical education and an internship in a company. I immersed myself in the world of finance at Lombard Odier. The bank then hired me as a quantitative analyst.” Bender then joined the Risk Management team as a group leader. She was in charge of developing tools used to monitor financial risks for both activities on the trading floor and the Group’s treasury management.

“...The ability to work as a part of a team is a key skill.”

Holding a Mathematical Engineering degree from the EPFL (1996) and a Master’s in the same subject from the EPFL and the Ecole Polytechnique de Paris (2001), Ariane Bender is Head of Risk Management for the bank’s Private Client Investment Service. “After the EPFL, I started my professional career in administration and the Federal Statistics Office in Berne. Later on, I returned to university. The Master’s in Mathematical Engineering included both a theoretical education and an internship in a company. I immersed myself in the world of finance at Lombard Odier. The bank then hired me as a quantitative analyst.” Bender then joined the Risk Management team as a group leader. She was in charge of developing tools used to monitor financial risks for both activities on the trading floor and the Group’s treasury management.

“...The ability to work as a part of a team is a key skill.”

Holding a Mathematical Engineering degree from the EPFL (1996) and a Master’s in the same subject from the EPFL and the Ecole Polytechnique de Paris (2001), Ariane Bender is Head of Risk Management for the bank’s Private Client Investment Service. “After the EPFL, I started my professional career in administration and the Federal Statistics Office in Berne. Later on, I returned to university. The Master’s in Mathematical Engineering included both a theoretical education and an internship in a company. I immersed myself in the world of finance at Lombard Odier. The bank then hired me as a quantitative analyst.” Bender then joined the Risk Management team as a group leader. She was in charge of developing tools used to monitor financial risks for both activities on the trading floor and the Group’s treasury management.

“...The ability to work as a part of a team is a key skill.”

Holding a Mathematical Engineering degree from the EPFL (1996) and a Master’s in the same subject from the EPFL and the Ecole Polytechnique de Paris (2001), Ariane Bender is Head of Risk Management for the bank’s Private Client Investment Service. “After the EPFL, I started my professional career in administration and the Federal Statistics Office in Berne. Later on, I returned to university. The Master’s in Mathematical Engineering included both a theoretical education and an internship in a company. I immersed myself in the world of finance at Lombard Odier. The bank then hired me as a quantitative analyst.” Bender then joined the Risk Management team as a group leader. She was in charge of developing tools used to monitor financial risks for both activities on the trading floor and the Group’s treasury management.

“...The ability to work as a part of a team is a key skill.”

Holding a Mathematical Engineering degree from the EPFL (1996) and a Master’s in the same subject from the EPFL and the Ecole Polytechnique de Paris (2001), Ariane Bender is Head of Risk Management for the bank’s Private Client Investment Service. “After the EPFL, I started my professional career in administration and the Federal Statistics Office in Berne. Later on, I returned to university. The Master’s in Mathematical Engineering included both a theoretical education and an internship in a company. I immersed myself in the world of finance at Lombard Odier. The bank then hired me as a quantitative analyst.” Bender then joined the Risk Management team as a group leader. She was in charge of developing tools used to monitor financial risks for both activities on the trading floor and the Group’s treasury management.

“...The ability to work as a part of a team is a key skill.”

Holding a Mathematical Engineering degree from the EPFL (1996) and a Master’s in the same subject from the EPFL and the Ecole Polytechnique de Paris (2001), Ariane Bender is Head of Risk Management for the bank’s Private Client Investment Service. “After the EPFL, I started my professional career in administration and the Federal Statistics Office in Berne. Later on, I returned to university. The Master’s in Mathematical Engineering included both a theoretical education and an internship in a company. I immersed myself in the world of finance at Lombard Odier. The bank then hired me as a quantitative analyst.” Bender then joined the Risk Management team as a group leader. She was in charge of developing tools used to monitor financial risks for both activities on the trading floor and the Group’s treasury management.

“...The ability to work as a part of a team is a key skill.”

Holding a Mathematical Engineering degree from the EPFL (1996) and a Master’s in the same subject from the EPFL and the Ecole Polytechnique de Paris (2001), Ariane Bender is Head of Risk Management for the bank’s Private Client Investment Service. “After the EPFL, I started my professional career in administration and the Federal Statistics Office in Berne. Later on, I returned to university. The Master’s in Mathematical Engineering included both a theoretical education and an internship in a company. I immersed myself in the world of finance at Lombard Odier. The bank then hired me as a quantitative analyst.” Bender then joined the Risk Management team as a group leader. She was in charge of developing tools used to monitor financial risks for both activities on the trading floor and the Group’s treasury management.

“...The ability to work as a part of a team is a key skill.”

Holding a Mathematical Engineering degree from the EPFL (1996) and a Master’s in the same subject from the EPFL and the Ecole Polytechnique de Paris (2001), Ariane Bender is Head of Risk Management for the bank’s Private Client Investment Service. “After the EPFL, I started my professional career in administration and the Federal Statistics Office in Berne. Later on, I returned to university. The Master’s in Mathematical Engineering included both a theoretical education and an internship in a company. I immersed myself in the world of finance at Lombard Odier. The bank then hired me as a quantitative analyst.” Bender then joined the Risk Management team as a group leader. She was in charge of developing tools used to monitor financial risks for both activities on the trading floor and the Group’s treasury management.
Bender learned many skills at the EPFL, but some have served her particularly well: knowing how to tackle a problem, advancing hypotheses and explaining a step-by-step solution. “The ability to work as part of a team, while being independent and autonomous for certain projects is also a key skill,” she added.

“Highly-developed knowledge in mathematics and statistics, whether related to quantitative finance or financial risks, are essential to my job. The computing skills I acquired at the EPFL have also been of great value.”

Francesco Di Lella studied Electrical and Electronic Engineering with a specialisation in micro- and nano-applications and graduated from the EPFL in 1991. He is Head of Development for the bank’s Portfolio Management Application.

“I joined Lombard Odier in 2002, where I first worked as a Business Analyst,” he said. “I was given the responsibility of leading a team to develop the bank’s portfolio management application in 2006.” His current responsibilities consist of developing Front Office applications – tools aimed at all employees, and more precisely at those who work in portfolio management, client relations and risk management. To accomplish this, he manages a team of 45 people made up of developers, project managers and analysts. “My work consists mainly of managing this team and understanding the bank’s needs in order to provide the appropriate IT tools.”

Di Lella previously worked in software development in different aeronautical and physics sectors. He also contributed to the creation of a start-up active in the medial sector. “As a shareholder and board member of this young company, I got my first taste of the investment world,” he said. Before joining Lombard Odier, he also worked as a project manager with an English IT services company.

The skills he learned at EPFL help him in his daily tasks, especially when it comes to managing a team. “My technical knowledge means my team sees me as a credible leader, which is an important part of my role as a manager. My analytical mindset is also essential. It enables me to understand complex problems in their entirety and to suggest solutions adapted to specific needs.”

Nicolas Ricci is a graduate of Computing from the EPFL (1993) and is now Head of Banking Infrastructure Partners at the bank. “I started my career at Lombard Odier as a computing engineer, immediately after I graduated,” he says. “I spent my first years working as a developer, designing computer software to facilitate the routing and automatic processing of market orders. I should remind you that at the time the stock exchanges, and certainly the Swiss stock exchange, were right about to go electronic.”

He was then given the task of building a team in order to maintain the Group’s IT system architecture. He managed the team for more than ten years, before becoming Head of IT Production. “At the same time I assisted a European banking group in its migration onto the Lombard Odier IT platform,” he adds. Today the development of technological and banking services is one of the Group’s main tasks, at the same level as private client and asset management.

Ricci’s responsibilities now consist of managing a team in charge of projects to integrate new partners, as well as the monitoring of current partners. “I am also more specifically in charge of an implementation project for a new, major European banking group,” he says.

His studies at the EPFL instilled in him a scientific mindset and developed his critical thinking. As he puts it himself, “I learned how to learn.” This is a particularly useful skill when he is confronted with new subjects. “My technical skills have been essential for my activities as an IT engineer. And today they are indispensable for managing teams of analysts who are in constant contact with the IT sector.”
Yannik Zufferey graduated in Mathematical Engineering from the EPFL (1997) before earning a PhD in Mathematics at the EPFL (2002). He now works as the Head of Bond Management in Swiss Francs for Lombard Odier Investment Managers (LOIM), the bank’s institutional branch. From 2004 to 2006, he was an assistant to Patrick Odier, one of the Group’s partners. Boosted by his experience working for an alternative fund based in London, he joined LOIM in 2008.

“I am head of a team made up of four people who work on investment fund management,” he says. “More precisely, we invest in bonds in Swiss francs issued by Swiss and international companies, and also by the Swiss Confederation and other government entities.”

The team analyses macro-economic changes and the quality of different bond issuers in order to outline an investment strategy. This strategy is then implemented as part of the bank’s multi-asset strategy of Lombard Odier Asset Management (LOAM), the Group’s institutional asset management unit. This is a strategic function, as the current banking environment – which now includes 0% and even negative interest rates on liquidity – presents a new scenario for institutional investors. It’s clear, however, that all throughout its history, LOAM has developed new investment technology for boosting profit while limiting risks thanks to a more rational mindset in task management and enables me to take step back from the ocean of information that finance can often drown in.”

However, he says there’s a caveat to mathematical models. Depending too much or solely on mathematics in a world as emotional as finance can lead analysts astray. “A mathematical model will always be just a model with hypotheses aiming to simplify reality. If we do not realise this, we will create monsters. This is what the subprime crisis was all about – derivative products which were highly interesting from a mathematical point of view, but overall extremely toxic.”

“The EPFL taught me analytical rigor and how to process large quantities of data. The mathematics used in finance is actually quite basic but it is an advantage to be able to quickly understand the models used, whether they are statistical or random. My engineering background means I have a more rational mindset in task management and enables me to take step back from the ocean of information that finance can often drown in.”

“More precisely, we invest in bonds in Swiss francs issued by Swiss and international companies, and also by the Swiss Confederation and other government entities.”

The EPFL taught me analytical rigor and how to process large quantities of data. The mathematics used in finance is actually quite basic but it is an advantage to be able to quickly understand the models used, whether they are statistical or random. My engineering background means I have a more rational mindset in task management and enables me to take step back from the ocean of information that finance can often drown in.”

“I am head of a team made up of four people who work on investment fund management,” he says. “More precisely, we invest in bonds in Swiss francs issued by Swiss and international companies, and also by the Swiss Confederation and other government entities.”

The team analyses macro-economic changes and the quality of different bond issuers in order to outline an investment strategy. This strategy is then implemented as part of the bank’s multi-asset strategy of Lombard Odier Asset Management (LOAM), the Group’s institutional asset management unit. This is a strategic function, as the current banking environment – which now includes 0% and even negative interest rates on liquidity – presents a new scenario for institutional investors. It’s clear, however, that all throughout its history, LOAM has developed new investment technology for boosting profit while limiting risks thanks to a more rational mindset in task management and enables me to take step back from the ocean of information that finance can often drown in.”

However, he says there’s a caveat to mathematical models. Depending too much or solely on mathematics in a world as emotional as finance can lead analysts astray. “A mathematical model will always be just a model with hypotheses aiming to simplify reality. If we do not realise this, we will create monsters. This is what the subprime crisis was all about – derivative products which were highly interesting from a mathematical point of view, but overall extremely toxic.”
What are the admissions criteria for EPFL?

A new year of students arrives every year at EPFL to begin their Bachelor studies. But what are the conditions for being accepted into the School? We take a look.

By Alexandre Bizerr (AL ’15)

HELPING INNOVATION: PIERRE DORSAZ JOINS EPFL ALUMNI

In light of increasing numbers of activities aiming to foster innovation, EPFL Alumni has hired Pierre Dorsaz to reinforce its team and meet growing demand.

Pierre Dorsaz graduated from the IHEID in Geneva in 2008 and worked at swissnex Boston for more than five years as a project manager for the internationalization of start-ups programmes. At EPFL Alumni, he will be in charge of projects linked to coaching, mentoring, investment and start-up support. He will also manage partnerships between active graduates and start-up support. He will also manage coaching, mentoring, investment and start-up support. He will also manage partnerships between active graduates and the academic and industrial worlds.

THE START-UP’S POINT OF VIEW

"It was following several meetings that our diagnosis platform project sparked the interest of BAS. For a start-up like Abionic, the first phase was very important and it meant we could transform a self-financed prototype into a real project ready to be commercialised.

The Business Angels were the first investors in our development phase. They are often EPFL graduates who want to keep ties with the community by helping start-ups from their School or even their region. Compared with professional investors, they have a more personal link with the projects and devote a lot of their time and advice to us, as well as their financial investments. These people are a precious support, as they are often engineers or entrepreneurs who understand the technical aspects of projects. They can provide help in every field. This is an enormous help for us, as when we finish our studies we need contacts and an exterior vision.

As for Abionic, we now need to startcommercialising our platforms. To achieve this we need to find larger investors, as the Business Angels invest their own money and do not have unlimited resources. We are currently looking to contact an investment fund. The processes are very different. While the Business Angels have an emotional relationship with a project or a start-up, funds are completely the opposite. Their relationship with the project is purely pragmatic. A professional investor will only commit if the technological risk of the project is completely assured and the "only" risk is in commercialising the product. This is the stage we now need to get through but I am optimistic!"

FOR STUDENTS WITH A QUALIFICATION OBTAINED IN SWITZERLAND

Students having completed a full secondary school education in Switzerland are accepted at EPFL without any other condition or exam. Those holding other qualifications obtained in Switzerland, such as professional or specialised secondary school diplomas, can still join EPFL, but future students must follow the Special Maths Course for one year. This catch-up course will then enable them to enter EPFL and to register for the first year of Bachelor studies in the section of their choosing.

FOR STUDENTS WITH A QUALIFICATION OBTAINED ABROAD

For those holding qualifications obtained in another EU or EFTA country, the conditions are as follows as of 1 December 2013: candidates must have obtained a general average of at least 80% of the maximum grade (for example, 16/20 or 8/10) in a scientific field. The candidate must also prove that the qualification grants them full access to universities in their country of origin. Candidates holding an International Baccalaureate must have obtained at least 38/42 (without bonus points), as well as a "High Level" in mathematics, physics or chemistry, a "High Level" in a modern language (or a "Standard Level" in a modern language at levels A1 or A2), or a "Standard Level" in at least three of the following branches: natural sciences, geography, history, economics, a second modern language and applied mathematics.
Alain Herzog on certain projects. However, most students are a key part of the exchange of information between students, and answering questions. Contact: logement@epfl.ch, Tel. +41 21 693 43 45. From Monday to Friday, 10am to 5pm.

Do students spend all their time in lecture halls? No, students are a key part of the region. Living in a flat-share with other students in Lausanne Park. It offers a range of pathways. Four graduates look back on their memories of the campus and their career plans.

EPFL’s reputation is unquestionably established, as proven by international rankings:

- In the QS 2014-2015 rankings, EPFL is 17th in the general rankings, and 10th in the Engineering and Technology category.
- The Times Higher Education rankings placed EPFL 12th in the world in the Engineering and Technology category in its 2014-2015 rankings, and 1st in the world ranking of the most international universities.
- According to the Academic Ranking of World Universities 2014 published by the Jiao Tong University in the Chinese-speaking cantons – would like to measure candidates and their parent’s. You do not need to be a maths genius to succeed at EPFL. It is far more important to be very motivated, enthusiastic, and perseverant and to enjoy solving difficult exercises. The key to success at EPFL is not necessarily an exceptional gift for maths, but effective work management, which should be applied from the first day of the first semester on campus.

WHY CHOOSE EPFL?
Other than the high technical level of knowledge provided by the School in its teaching, EPFL also offers an international environment thanks to the 125 nationalities represented on campus. It offers a generalist approach in its teaching, EPFL also offers an international environment thanks to the 125 nationalities represented on campus. It offers a generalist approach in its teaching, EPFL also offers an international environment thanks to the 125 nationalities represented on campus. It offers a generalist approach in its teaching, EPFL also offers an international environment thanks to the 125 nationalities represented on campus. It offers a generalist approach in its teaching, EPFL also offers an international environment thanks to the 125 nationalities represented on campus. It offers a generalist approach...
As a politician, ecologist and jurist, Luc Recordon developed a passion in a variety of fields during his education and career. After completing studies simultaneously in physics at the EPFL and in law at the University of Lausanne, he is now a practicing lawyer. His political career with the Swiss Green Party took him to the top of the Swiss Council of States.

“To stay faithful to my ideals…”

Alumnist Proust
Luc Recordon

1955
Born in Pully (Canton of Vaud)

1970
Sends his first reader’s letters to the newspapers

1973
Starts his studies in physics at the EPFL during the first oil crisis

1979-1980
Graduates in physics and engineering from the EPFL and with a degree in law

1987-1989
PhD in law and passes the bar exam

1989-1990
Elected for the municipality of Jouxtens-Mézery and to the Grand Council of the Canton of Vaud

2003
Elected to the Swiss National Council

2007
Elected to the Swiss Council of States for the Canton of Vaud
de Vaud

Marriage
"KEEPING ONE’S WORD AND DUTY OF CAREFULNESS
CONTINUITY
DEBATE
WORLD WITHOUT WAR TO RETAIN TO KEEP BEING TRUE TO MY IDEALS"
The SysCom class of 2006
Where are they now?

Alexandre Aellig, 34 years old, Geneva, Switzerland
"My time at the EPFL was characterised by my solid commitment to the many groups at the School. I was involved on all fronts, including at the time of the Bologna reforms, which provoked a large number of changes and a need to adapt.

After my Master's at the UBS Business University of Singapore, I was employed as an analyst by the Helvetica group's Family Office, where I was responsible for the royal family of Qatar for around eight years. I now work as a freelance consultant for a private entrepreneur, traveling between Geneva, Monaco and Paris."

Clara Huizink, 34 years old, Brussels, Belgium
"When I left the EPFL, I worked as a systems engineer at Nagra-Vision, a branch of the Kudelski group, for three years. I then completely changed careers by studying in London to become a Secondary School mathematics teacher.

I obtained my first post as a teacher in an international school in Cebu, in the Philippines, before I moved to work in Vienna. Today I teach in Brussels. I am currently co-writing a series of school books on maths. I am putting forward a way of teaching the subject based on a conceptual approach."

Steve Salom, 35 years old, Lausanne, Switzerland
"After my studies I worked at the Rothschild bank for four years. I then went to the INSEAD to do an MBA. My professional career continued in London, where I worked for the merchant bank Morgan Stanley, in their M&A department. I then went to San Francisco, where I joined the start-up APlDirect where I was responsible for its expansion in Europe. It was there that I discovered the taxi system provided by Uber and I decided to contact the company. When Uber wanted to expand to Geneva in 2014, the company asked me to take on the task of building its services and monitoring the growth of its activities in French-speaking Switzerland. I developed Uber from scratch in Geneva and then in Lausanne. Today we make thousands of journeys every week in both cities."

Steve Salom, 35 years old, Lausanne, Switzerland
"I worked as a consultant for seven years at Crédit Agricole, straight after graduating. But my dream had always been to become a pilot. My years of work enabled me to put money aside in order to fund my aviation training.

After gaining all the necessary flight licences, I left Crédit Agricole in 2011 and became an airline pilot for easyJet. I am responsible for flying from Geneva to a number of the destinations offered by the company."

Frederic Vial, 34 years old, Fribourg, Switzerland
"I carried out my professional experience for my studies at an IT security start-up and then worked there for a year after graduation. I then went into IT consulting and carried out a variety of missions as part of my work, including with Orange, the State of Fribourg, the Mutuel group, Swissquote and Nestlé.

Over the last three years I have been a project director for an IT solutions development company. Now this contract is over, I am thinking of a new direction for my career, although I would like to stay in project management."

Jérémie Clergue, 33 years old, Lausanne, Switzerland
"I worked as a consultant for seven years at Crédit Agricole, straight after graduating. But my dream had always been to become a pilot. My years of work enabled me to put money aside in order to fund my aviation training.

After gaining all the necessary flight licences, I left Crédit Agricole in 2011 and became an airline pilot for easyJet. I am responsible for flying from Geneva to a number of the destinations offered by the company.

Over my Master's at the UBS Business University of Singapore, I was employed as an analyst by the Helvetica groups Family Office, where I was responsible for the royal family of Qatar for around eight years. I now work as a freelance consultant for a private entrepreneur, traveling between Geneva, Monaco and Paris."

Photographs taken in 2006 in the B building on the EPFL campus. The graduates were too numerous to hold on a single photograph.
Multi-function circuits capable of reconfiguring themselves in real-time and changing their function according to requirements. This is the promising new application linked to a discovery made at EPFL. And to top it all off, the miniaturisation of electronic devices and the development of resilient circuits are also on the table.

Researchers from the EPFL demonstrated that it was possible to reconfigure electronic circuits on demand, thanks to the creation of wide conductive tracks.

Circuits with reconfigurable tracks

By: Laure-Anne Pesenti, School of Engineering

Will it be possible to reconfigure microchips limitlessly, even while they are processing? A recent discovery by a team at EPFL would certainly seem to indicate as much! The researchers demonstrated that it was possible to create conductive tracks in a material a few atoms wide, to move them at will and even to make them disappear.

Their research was showcased in the Nature Nanotechnology journal. Adaptable electronics are materials known as “ferroelectric materials,” in which flexible conductive tracks can be created. These tracks are generated by applying an electrical field to the material. Under the effect of the electrical field, certain central atoms move “up” or “down” in a process called polarisation. Over the last few years the academic world has observed the space between these polarised zones, and noticed the formation of conductive tracks a few atoms wide, known as “limings”. Scientists from EPFL have demonstrated that it was possible to control the formation of these limings on a thin layer of ferroelectric material, and therefore to create unlimited tracks in specific places. The next stage will be to develop a prototype for a reconfigurable circuit.

Circuits with reconfigurable tracks

In the future, ski resorts could use statistics to evaluate long-term avalanche activity with nothing more than a webcam, a weather station and observations collected over several years. Researchers at EPFL have validated a statistical model for forecasting avalanches.

Co-author of this study, the post-doctoral student Benoît Crouzy (DR PH’09) is a researcher at the AHEAD group (Applied Hydromechanics and Alpine Environmental Dynamics).

Forecasting avalanches

By: Jan Overney, School of Architecture, Civil and Environmental Engineering

Certain places are avalanche magnets. For example, every year around 100 avalanches hit the south face of the “Sex Noir” in the Sionne valley, in Valais. But the ability to judge which slopes are most prone to avalanches remains more an art than a science. The most advanced models currently rely on the simulation of the physics of avalanches in order to estimate the short-term risk for specific slopes. Researchers at EPFL put forward a statistics-based model two years ago, aiming to evaluate long-term avalanche activity and quantify the statistical link between snowfall and avalanches. Based on around 530 observations of avalanches collected from the Sienne valley over six years, the researchers were recently able to validate their model. Their findings were published in the Journal of Geophysical Research – Earth Surface.

According to Benoît Crouzy (DR PH’09), co-author of the study, the evaluation of long-term avalanche activity requires a statistical approach. Current models are based on physics, and are particularly appropriate for issuing forecasts spanning a few days. Statistical models like those used for weather forecasts must be based on huge quantities of data, and their accuracy weakens over time. To accurately calibrate the statistical approach to avalanche risks, hundreds of avalanches must be observed. But as avalanches are rather rare – only a small number occur in the same place in a given year – this information is often unavailable. “This is one of the reasons why these methods are used more in analysing conventional hydrological dangers such as flooding,” says Crouzy. But the increasing availability of webcams and weather stations could now change the game.

Forecasting avalanches

By: Jan Overney, School of Architecture, Civil and Environmental Engineering

In the future, ski resorts could use statistics to evaluate long-term avalanche activity with nothing more than a webcam, a weather station and observations collected over several years. Researchers at EPFL have validated a statistical model for forecasting avalanches.

Based on statistics, the model developed by the EPFL can evaluate long-term avalanche activity by quantifying the link between avalanche activity and weather conditions.

Forecasting avalanches

By: Jan Overney, School of Architecture, Civil and Environmental Engineering

In the future, ski resorts could use statistics to evaluate long-term avalanche activity with nothing more than a webcam, a weather station and observations collected over several years. Researchers at EPFL have validated a statistical model for forecasting avalanches.

Based on statistics, the model developed by the EPFL can evaluate long-term avalanche activity by quantifying the link between avalanche activity and weather conditions.
EPFL has become a hub of exchanges and encounters over the years. Its campus hosts almost 11,000 people, including students, researchers and employees. With 125 nationalities and more than half of the professors coming from abroad, EPFL is one of the world’s most cosmopolitan universities. The campus has adapted in order to welcome everyone, and has now become a veritable town in its own right, illustrated by its new Northern Quarter which was built around the recent SwissTech Convention Centre.

This new construction has completed the existing infrastructure on the EPFL campus, which has seen the construction of many buildings, including the Rolex Learning Centre – a library and study area for students – and the BI building, which now houses all of EPFL’s central services. And that’s not all! “Under One Roof”, an experimental project combining culture and science, is currently under construction at Place Cosandey and will be inaugurated in 2016.

THE NORTHERN QUARTER
The Northern Quarter is a commercial and residential area within the same campus, home to a shopping arcade, restaurants, a medical centre, a dental clinic, the SwissTech Hotel and the “Atrium” student residence. The residential building has 516 beds spread across 180 shared and studio flats.

THE BI BUILDING
EPFL’s former Central Library has been revamped by French architect Dominique Perrault, who has turned it into a building combining colours and transparency. Behind the building’s rainbow facades hide EPFL’s administration and central services.

THE ME-D BUILDING
Just like the BI building, the former mechanical engineering halls are currently being renovated by the architect Dominique Perrault. Robotics, Bio-engineering and practical class of engineering and materials will be gathered in this new building. It will be functional in autumn, 2015.

THE SWISSTECH CONVENTION CENTRE
Inaugurated in April 2014, EPFL’s new convention centre can hold up to 3,000 people in its main hall. Designed by the renowned architecture firm Richter Dahl Rocha, the diamond-shaped building is modular structure capable of adapting to different capacities and different types of events.

UNDER ONE ROOF
Currently under construction, this architecture project will host three completely different buildings: the Montreux Jazz Lab, with a concert space and a café, the Art & Science space, with an experimentation lab for stage design of the future, and the Demonstration Building. This project is the result of a partnership with Rolex, the Fondation Gandur pour l’Art and the Montreux Jazz Archives.
innovation is often associated with young start-ups. But SMEs also have a key role to play, and represent more than 99% of businesses in Switzerland. “SMEs are silently innovating every day,” says Patrick Barbey, CEO of Innovaud, which supports the development of innovative businesses in the canton of Vaud. “They often make small advances, which range from improving a screw to using new materials to optimise manufacturing processes. Even though they don’t make the front page, these innovations are essential for the country’s economy.”

The Vaud-based company estimates that between 500 and 1,000 companies in the canton actively contribute innovation. They include family-based, century-old, small and international companies, and many support this dynamic. A great number of them have a research and development department, many of which employ EPFL graduates, including the company Ecowaste. EPFL alumni can also be found at the head of companies. “One of the goals of the Alliance is in fact to help SMEs to put forward a CTI project request, and find them an academic perspective,” says Mark Dikötter, an EPFL graduate working at the University of Applied Sciences of the Grisons. “On the one hand, we are positioning ourselves in an economic reality, in touch with our clients. On the other hand, we are working with PhD students, who push us to gain a bit of perspective,” says Gabella.

The company’s R&D department is based in Switzerland, and is also focused on new technologies. Several teams of scientists research and evaluate new principles of physics in current detection. “Innovation is a state of mind,” says Gabella. “Almost 70% of the world’s commercial aeroplanes and locomotives are equipped with one of our sensors,” says François Gabella, an EPFL graduate in mechanical engineering, and current Chairman and CEO of LEM, whose head-quarters are based in Geneva. Specialised in the development of tension and current sensors, the company has been a market leader since the 1970s. It now has offices and production workshops in China and Bulgaria, and subsidiaries in the USA, Japan, Germany and Scandinavia. Almost 70% of the world’s commercial aeroplanes and locomotives are equipped with one of our sensors. Its technology is used in the railway, industrial, energy and automobile sectors. “Our sensors can be found in a large number of powerful electronic devices that power electric motors. Our current operational profitability is around 28%, which is rather unusual in this sector and with this type of product,” says Gabella.

The company actively contributes to the creation of new markets. For example, it develops sensors to be used in the renewable energy sector such as solar, wind and green cars. LEM is also constantly looking to develop and renew its product portfolio. “We are constantly making our products smaller and more efficient, while continuing to reduce production costs,” says Gabella. The company posted revenue of CHF 245.6 million in 2013-2014, and intends to strengthen its position in current markets from here on, while developing its activities in new markets.
W e develop smart containers.* This is how Marc Dikötter defines the activities of the company Ecowaste, where the EPFL IT graduate is Head of Research and Development. The Vaudoise-based SME has been developing ‘ecologistic’ solutions for the last ten years, optimising the management and collection of waste. “Our containers can be entirely or partially buried, and are equipped with web-connected ultrasound probes that measure their filling rate,” says Dikötter. “This avoids unnecessary collection, bearing in mind that this process makes up a third of total costs in the waste processing chain.”

The company has also developed an access control and waste weighing device to encourage a system of weight-based taxation. It works like this: every home has a magnetic card used to open the container. Once the bag has been weighed, the information is sent directly to the local authorities, who can then charge taxes online.

“With the weighing system and our ultrasound probes, we have established ourselves as precursors in this market,” says Dikötter. “With our technology aiming to optimise waste management, we have established ourselves as precursors in this market.”

Ecowaste, where the EPFL IT graduate is Head of Research and Development. The company has also developed an access control and waste weighing device to encourage a system of weight-based taxation. It works like this: every home has a magnetic card used to open the container. Once the bag has been weighed, the information is sent directly to the local authorities, who can then charge taxes online.

“The innovative, miniature systems developed by Arcoptix have not been patented. "We are protected by our expertise,” Merenda says. “It is very difficult to manufacture these devices, very few other companies could do it.” Arcoptix works in collaboration with the EPFL, among others, to continue producing increasingly sophisticated products. This partnership enables the company to use state-of-the-art equipment and the EPFL’s expertise in the optics and microengineering sectors.

Arcoptix was entirely auto-financed, and clearly defines itself as a high-tech SME and not a start-up. The young company specializes in the development and manufacturing of optical measurement systems, such as infrared spectrometers and liquid crystals that control and measure light polarization, for both research and the industry. It also sets itself apart by developing miniaturised systems far smaller than those produced by its competitors. ““We offer brand new technology for an SME,” says Fabrice Merenda, head of products for the spectrometer branch at Arcoptix. Merenda holds a degree in physics and a PhD in microengineering from the EPFL. “Unlike our competitors, who are enormous companies, we can work in close collaboration with our clients and provide them with tailor-made products,” he says.

The production of micro-components using photolithographic, galvanisation and electroforming processes pushed Mimotec to the forefront of its market. The company now has around 120 clients in the watch-making sector. “Research is an important part of our activity,” says Lorenz. “We are constantly looking for new innovations, and have already registered around ten patents.” The SME has just developed a patented ‘anti-counterfeiting’ product used to quickly and easily verify the authenticity of watches and other luxury products.

Mimotec won the Swiss Suisse Romande Award in late 2014, a distinction granted by the Swiss Venture Club to innovative, sustainably successful companies.
The digital agency Virtua develops, creates, hosts and ensures the promotion of web and mobile projects. It offers services including an improved web presence, the creation of communication and e-commerce platforms, and the development of made-to-order management applications, such as portfolio and human resources management applications.

The Vaud-based company was founded in 1998, and at the time it positioned itself as a precursor in the digital market. The agency rapidly advanced to become sector leader in French-speaking Switzerland, and attracted clients such as Nespresso and the International Olympic Committee. “Our added-value is providing our clients with an overall perspective. We offer them comprehensive digital strategies and creations,” says Jean-Philippe Egger, an EPFL IT graduate and Head of Software Engineering at Virtua.

Virtua divides its expertise into a variety of complementary business lines, including web development, server hosting, design, marketing, social media and strategy. “We see ourselves as a ‘360° agency’, as we try and ensure a presence in all digital fields,” Egger says. “And our different business lines are far from restricted. We try as much as possible to combine our range of skills.”

The agency has quadrupled its staff in the last five years, going from 20 to 80 employees. Egger now directs a team of 16 engineers in web development, compared to just four in 2009. “The digital sector is constantly changing, and fast! Innovation has to be a daily focus for the company if we want to stay in the running,” Egger says. “Virtua does not have an R&D department, unlike many other companies, and so all of our employees need to be committed to this task.”

The SME takes part in many research projects to stimulate innovation, usually hand-in-hand with its clients. “These collaborative projects often generate innovative solutions, such as the creation of new digital products,” Egger says. Virtua also invests in the founding of digital start-ups, and actively encourages innovation in the Lake Geneva region. It thereby stimulates the development of young companies by providing financing, entrepreneurial coaching and international connections.

Winner of the Innovation Award of the canton of Fribourg in 2014, Bumotec is a company specialised in the development of comprehensive machining solutions. “We develop systems that can be used in every stage of manufacturing a product, from raw materials to the extraction of finished pieces,” says Patrick Pham, an EPFL graduate in Microengineering and Technical Director at Bumotec.

Mainly active in the watchmaking and medical sectors, but also present in the jewellery, micro-mechanics and aeronautics markets, the company has clients in Switzerland, Europe, the USA and Asia. Bumotec has developed a series of machine tools which are protected by several patents. These tools range from the recent, ultra-productive s100, which is available as a single-spindle machine and a transfer line machine, to the x191, which enables the A-to-Z production of highly accurate, complex pieces. “On request from our clients, who continually push us to be more innovative, we develop tailor-made modules to fine-tune our machines,” Pham says. “These close collaborations mean we can meet industry demands while constantly developing more efficient systems.”
The MOOC revolution

EPFL's MOOCs have attracted nearly 780,000 subscriptions since the first course went online in October 2012.

The EPFL created its first MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) in October 2012. And why? To showcase the school and increase the visibility of its courses on an international level. “We also want to introduce changes in the education provided by the EPFL and enable students on campus to view their course content online,” says Patrick Jermann, Director of the Centre for Digital Education (CDE), which developed the MOOCs.

Less than three years later, 25 MOOCs have been created and 21 others are in the pipeline. Half of the courses are written in English and the other half in French. The courses have attracted nearly 780,000 subscriptions across 203 countries. Today around 44,000 students have obtained a qualification. Only these final certificates require a fee – the courses themselves are available free of charge.

“Although many think MOOCs are mainly followed by students, they are actually mostly used as continuous education tools,” says Jermann. “Some 62% of participants have already finished their studies.” In this context, the CDE is thinking about developing new courses aimed more specifically at continuing education. “Graduates are one of our target audiences. We have actually created an entrepreneurial course called ‘Starting New Venture.’”

Among the people signed up to the MOOCs from the EPFL, 6.3% come from Africa. The School also created the “MOOCAfrica” programme in 2013. It offers African universities tailor-made solutions to reinforce their higher and continuing education. “With this brand new partnership, the EPFL is playing a pioneering role in Africa,” says Jermann. More than two thirds of the MOOCs created by the EPFL represent a particular interest for the African students. It

Yvonne Blanchard
France
MOOC followed: Mechanics I
“The course in mechanics enabled me, at 52 years old, to bring my old knowledge of the field up-to-date. I rediscovered the pleasure of learning and understanding by analysing day-to-day phenomena.”

Daryl Lee
USA
MOOC followed: Introduction to object-oriented programming (in Java)
“I work for a start-up in the Computer Vision sector and would like to be more useful to my colleagues. Following this MOOC enabled me to top up my skills and train as a programmer.”

Lisa Ramonour
Trinidad and Tobago
MOOC followed: Household Water Treatment and safe Storage
“I am a civil engineer and I have always dreamed of contributing to the creation of a system to improve the quality of water in Africa. Thanks to this course I know the negative effects that poor-quality water can have on people’s health, and I want to share this knowledge.”

Mohamed Abour
Morocco
MOOC followed: Introduction to object-oriented programming (in Java)
“I am 51 years old and I am a physics and chemistry teacher in a secondary school in the town of Agadir in southern Morocco. I would like to continue my studies in order to obtain a Master’s in physics and this MOOC is helping me prepare.”

Siid Xaneine Hien
Burkina Faso
MOOC followed: Introduction to programming (in Java)
“I have been taken on a seven-week journey filled with discovery and knowledge. My thirst for learning has been quenched by new methods presented by the MOOCs. It’ll be back for more!”

Christian Achard
France
MOOC followed: Mechanics I
“I am a professor at the University of New Mexico and have been studying French for two years. Following the MOOC enabled me to speak, read and write in French, while gaining new skills.”

Lisa Ramonour
Trinidad and Tobago
MOOC followed: Household Water Treatment and safe Storage
“I am a civil engineer and I have always dreamed of contributing to the creation of a system to improve the quality of water in Africa. Thanks to this course I know the negative effects that poor-quality water can have on people’s health, and I want to share this knowledge.”

Daryl Lee
USA
MOOC followed: Introduction to object-oriented programming (in Java)
“I work for a start-up in the Computer Vision sector and would like to be more useful to my colleagues. Following this MOOC enabled me to top up my skills and train as a programmer.”

Mohamed Abour
Morocco
MOOC followed: Introduction to object-oriented programming (in Java)
“I am 51 years old and I am a physics and chemistry teacher in a secondary school in the town of Agadir in southern Morocco. I would like to continue my studies in order to obtain a Master’s in physics and this MOOC is helping me prepare.”
This non-exhaustive list of events will be updated regularly. Visit our website www.epflalumni.ch and the EPFL Alumni group on LinkedIn to make sure you don’t miss anything, and make sure we have your correct email address.

**AUGUST**

**NEW YORK**
Just like every year, the East Coast branch of the EPFL Alumni, directed by Allan Estivalet (GC’08), will attend Swiss National Day on Aug. 1, organised by the Swiss Society of New York. Our graduates will be able to use this day to promote the School with a stand for the EPFL and the EPFL Alumni.

**SEPTEMBER**

**INVESTMENT**
An investment evening organised with the BAS, will be held on Sept. 16 at the Rolex Learning Center. Different start-ups will come to introduce themselves to an audience of investors, who are either EPFL graduates or members of the BAS.

**TROPICAL GARDEN**
The East Switzerland branch of the EPFL Alumni is inviting its members to visit the Tropical House of Frutigen (Topenhäusli) on 29 August. Visitors will discover an oasis of plants and tropical spices, a sturgeon farm for caviar, and an exhibition and an exhibition held in a landscape of alpine prairies.

**OCTOBER**

**GRADUATION**
Graduation day will be held at the EPFL on Oct. 3, 2015. The general ceremony will take place at the SwissTech Convention Center and will be followed by the Master’s graduation ceremony from different faculties.

**NEUCHÂTEL**
Members of the EPFL Alumni BE-FR-NE-XX will meet in Neuchâtel in the evening of Oct. 20 for an informal gathering, where they can meet other EPFL graduates in the region.

**NOVEMBER**

**INVESTMENT**
An investment evening organised with the BAS, will be held on Sept. 16 at the Rolex Learning Center. Different start-ups will come to introduce themselves to an audience of investors, who are either EPFL graduates or members of the BAS.

**STAY WITH US AT**
www.STHotel.ch

**WHERE PEOPLE MEET IDEAS**
The SwissTech Convention Center offers an ideal interface for researchers and speakers from around the world. It is the place where bright minds meet to exchange ideas about tomorrow’s most exciting challenges.
www.tstcc.ch
Every day, governments, companies and millions of people rely on us to protect the integrity and value of their currency, personal identity, products and brands. Contributing to the development of a world more secure for the citizens is our business purpose and the ultimate motivation of all our units and personnel.

SICPA

Enabling trust