



July 2004

This newsletter is also available online at:
<http://www.essecusa.com/newsletter/newsletter.htm>

Editorial

Do not miss...

... **USA Eagles vs. France:** Eagles take on the reigning European Champion – French National Rugby Team – at the new University of Connecticut stadium in an exciting Rugby World Cup rematch on Wednesday July 3rd, 2004.

Information, www.usarugby.org or www.rentschlerfield.com

Tickets: 860-525-4500 or 203-624-0033 or 413-7332500 (groups)

ESSEC USA Community

It happened last month...

Our last **Happy Hour Grandes Ecoles** was happy to invite the Alumni Clubs of the "**New York Business Schools Club**" (NYSBC), bringing together alumni from the Elite MBA schools including Anderson-UCLA; Columbia Business School Alumni Club NY; Cornell – Johnson Graduate School of Management; Duke – Fuqua School of Business; Georgetown; Wharton Club of NY; Yale Alumni Club of NY and many more....). It was a great opportunity to "cross network" with prestigious US Alumni Clubs! More to come...

Alumni forum

...2004 Newsmakers' Event:

Hospitality Business: How did the survivors survive?

Our third ESSEC USA Newsmaker's Panel held at the Four Seasons Hotel on May 12th, 2004 has been a real success. To read the press release and view the pictures from the event, please visit: www.essecusa.com

Chicago Chapter: more activities

Our Chicago Chapter Leader, Damien Zinck, is currently organizing a "get-together" for ESSEC alumni in the Chicago area. Please contact [Damien](#) if you are in the region and want to connect with other alumni.

Intern position available: Altios International, NYC – 6 months

(August 04 – January 05). Company providing support to French companies in the development of their activities on strategic markets: US, Canada, Brazil, Australia, China. The newly created US Office is looking for an intern to work as a project manager and to participate to the business development effort. More details: [Click here](#)
Send resume + cover letter to: t.zimmermann@altios-international.com.

Position available for a new Boston Chapter Leader

Our Boston Chapter Leader left Boston in June. If you are an ESSEC alumni fellow living in the Boston area and are willing to contribute to the development of our school in the US please contact [Claire Stokes](#).

Ready to relocate: Over 20 years of experience as a General Manager with full P&L responsibility, result oriented with international vision, strong leadership skills, fluent English, French and German. [See Resume](#)
Contact: Joseph Osman – Email: josman@alissweb.com

Parisian flat for rent mid August – end of September: well located near the Gare du Nord (10e), duplex furnished, computer w/Internet. Can sleep 4 persons. Kitchen, bathroom, 2nd floor w/elevator – 350 Euros/week. Contact: Jean-Paul Ciquier (ESSEC 77) / Email: jpciquier@krupsusa.com

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ESSEC USA Upcoming Events

New York Chapter

Our Happy Hour Grandes Ecoles will start again in September. Enjoy your summer and see you in September!

Other Upcoming Events

Saturday July 3rd, 2004

USA Eagles vs. France

Eagles take on the "XV de France" at the Rentschlerfield, CT stadium in an exciting Rugby World Cup rematch!!!

For match information, www.usarugby.org

For information on Rentschler Field, including

tickets and seating: www.rentschlerfield.com

Tickets: (860) 525- 4500, (203) 624-0033 or (413) 733-2500 or www.ticketmaster.com

Wednesday July 14th, 2004

INSEAD

La Nuit Parisienne: Bastille Day 2004

Dress: Frrrrrrench! Bien sûr!

7:30 – 11 PM

Harbor Lights restaurant

89 South St, Pier 17, Floor 3

To sign up: [Click here](#)

Friday, July 16, 2004

The Committee of French Speaking Societies

is proud to announce the

Annual Bastille Day Ball

8:00PM-4:00AM

A single \$20 entrance fee* gets you into all four fun-filled fêtes!

[See invitation](#)

More info: <http://www.bastilledayball.org/>



Interview of the Month: Alexandra Bouhet-Domart (ESSEC 92)

Q: What is your background?

I am currently working at AXA Financial in the Treasurer's department, following AXA's US asset management activities and closing down a small bank it owned here. I have been working at AXA since 1996 at various asset management related positions within several companies (French asset management company, French insurance company, holding company). Prior to AXA I worked as a credit analyst in Frankfurt at a German merchant bank, BHF-Bank, which has since been acquired by ING Bank. I am also a Certified European Financial Analyst since 2000.

Q: Why did you decide to come and stay here?

I was offered the job while I was working in Paris and saw it as a great opportunity for me and my family. The US is the Mecca for asset management, as US citizens are fully aware they need to provide themselves for their retirement directly or via Pension funds combined with the depth and innovative capabilities of the US financial markets. I appreciate the American focused and "just do it" attitude. They break up challenges in smaller steps and take that first step.

Q: What advice would you give to ESSEC graduates who would like to come to work here?

When planning to come over one must be fully aware of the very focused attitude of Americans. People often have very focused job descriptions and very sharp professional skills: an American company will hire a foreigner only if he possesses sharp skills, which are not available locally. The visa paperwork is getting more and more complex and lengthy. The best transition is to be sent over by a French corporation and decide if the lifestyle is right for you, learn to play by the local rules and develop your network. Networking is crucial here: it is easy to meet people, especially through projects such as charities, which are almost compulsory. On the logistics side, flawless health coverage is crucial as medical expenses can reach extravagant levels. Schooling is also very competitive and expensive as early as preschool.

Q: How do you think your ESSEC background helped you to be where you are?

ESSEC gave me strong fundamentals as well as an eagerness to explore new horizons, an ability to seek and learn new skills, to adapt and get out of the comfort zone. I learned how to take a step back and grow beyond being a specialist.

My time at ESSEC enabled me to travel a lot through internships and an exchange program (Japan, New York, North Carolina), to do a lot of things in terms of industries and academic subjects as well as student clubs (ESSEC Chine, ESSEC Golf). I also met a lot of different people, most of whom are still close friends. I appreciate the flexibility, just do it attitude of the school.

Q: What do you consider as your role in the ESSEC family?

I participated in the organization of the 2003 ESSEC USA conference on corporate governance, securing my boss as a key speaker. I attended conferences organized by other business schools. I find it is a great networking opportunity and a chance to meet people outside the financial services arena as well as to get feedback from those who have been around longer.

Thank you Alexandra...

Amis des Grandes Ecoles:

Volunteers we need your help!!!

***Webmaster:** you will update the website regularly according to the club's activity. In the long run you will be in charge of the English version as well as creating a forum for discussions and ads focused on job search and other tips related to working in the U.S.

***Newsletter Editor:** you will edit the monthly newsletter, collecting relevant information of interest to the members, enlarging the network's activity in the U.S. (for example with head hunters, immigration attorneys, etc.) and coordinating with the webmaster.

These positions require no more than one hour of work/week and will allow you to network with the most prestigious business environments in the U.S.

For more information please contact:
[Anne de Louvigny Stone](#)

Contact the ESSEC USA Chapters:

- [Boston](#) – Claire Stokes
- [Chicago](#) – Damien Zinck
- [Los Angeles](#) – Isabelle Mauras
- [Miami](#) – Ovidiu Sofronia
- [New York](#) – Leslie Serrero

Thank You

Please feel free to send us your questions, comments or suggestions.

We hope you enjoyed reading this Newsletter and we look forward to seeing you at one of these events.

Have a nice and relaxing summer!

[Anne-Laure Gilard](#)
ESSEC USA Newsletter Editor