

### Graduation ceremony of the first two cohorts of ESSEC Private Equity Chair

*Cergy, 23rd March 2009*

On Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March, 2009, 28 students of the first two cohorts of the ESSEC Private Equity Chair received their diplomas in a graduation ceremony at ESSEC's Alumni headquarters, *la Maison des ESSEC*. Corporate partners Barclays Private Equity, Grant Thornton and Linklaters attended the ceremony.

Founded in January 2007, the mission of the Chair is to accompany future Private Equity professionals in developing skills that are relevant to their field. The students selected by the chair, mostly ESSEC MBA graduates, receive specialized theoretical training and acquire an in-depth knowledge of the sector, learning from some of the industry's major players. Students conduct research projects which lead to the creation of high-quality educational materials. In addition, they participate in a simulation game which confronts them with the challenges encountered in real deal-making situations.

**"Judging from the experience with these first two cohorts, it is clear that students are actively pursued in the job market because they are able to respond to the needs of the professionals who are recruiting"**, explains José-Miguel Gaspar, the Professor of the Private Equity Chair. Indeed, the chair has proved to be a distinct advantage in a particularly difficult recruitment climate.

#### Successful career development

Amongst the 28 graduates of the Chair, 11 already occupy permanent positions in organizations such as Serena Capital, Capzantine, Bain, Rothschild, Morgan Stanley, Kea & Partners, Entrepreneur Venture, and Caisse Nationale des Caisses d'Épargne. In terms of internships, students have worked with European Capital, Fondations Capital, Goldman Sachs, Axa PE, Agregator Gestion, Société Générale and Duke Street Capital, among others.

**Feedback from alumni highlights the value of the program:** Marine Desbans, 24 yrs old, Business Manager at Serena Capital, says: "The chair's network enabled me to obtain my first job contract". Nikhil Gupta, 25 yrs old, Analyst at Rothschild, confirms: "The advantages of being having and being able to communicate with contacts through the chair have been invaluable for my job search". Guillaume De Jongh, 26 yrs old, Business Manager for Capzantine, explains: "The market has always been extremely competitive (prior to the credit crunch, and even more so since). The chair is therefore an important differentiation factor".

### **About ESSEC**

Founded in 1907, ESSEC ranks amongst the top management schools in the world. Driven by a clear set of values (innovation, responsibility and humanism), the school fosters a tradition of academic excellence and cultivates a spirit of openness. Via a comprehensive range of programs, ESSEC's mission is to produce responsibly-minded managers who are aware of the world around them. Comprising three campuses (in Cergy, Paris and Singapore) with a total of 3 700 students, 6 000 participants in executive education, and a network of 27 000 alumni across the world, ESSEC has a unique reservoir of talent to offer. For more information, visit: [www.essec.edu](http://www.essec.edu)

### **About the Private Equity Chair**

The ESSEC Private Equity Chair was created in January 2007. Its purpose is to create knowledge on topics relevant to Private Equity, and to disseminate this knowledge by training future industry professionals. Private Equity (PE) is a model of corporate ownership where control is concentrated in the hands of active professional investors. These investors raise capital, provide financial and operational expertise to help a company's development, and monitor the firm's progress through the different stages of its lifecycle. The Chair has three activity areas: production of academic research; production of managerial-oriented content via its Case-Study Programme; and coursework open to ESSEC students. **Barclays Private Equity, Grant Thornton and Linklaters** are the three partners of the Private Equity Chair. For more information, visit: [www.essec-private-equity.com](http://www.essec-private-equity.com)

### **About Barclays Private Equity France**

The ambition of Barclays Private Equity France is to be an active and motivated shareholder of reference working side-by-side with managers. Along with its team's extensive experience of the French market, Barclays Private Equity France benefits from the company's European network (in the United Kingdom, Germany, Switzerland and Italy) and from its position within one of the first-ranking financial groups worldwide. It proposes solutions to companies' buyout and external development projects, engineering the raising and the syndication of all financing (equity, mezzanine, and senior debt) and becoming an active shareholder thereafter.

On the European level, Barclays Private Equity manages more than 5 billion euros (including 2.45 billion euros raised in August 2007). Since 1991, Barclays Private Equity has invested more than 1.4 billion euros in more than 90 deals in France. These companies are operating in most industrial and services sectors, with corporate value between 30 million euros and 500 million euros.

### **About Grant Thornton**

Within France alone, Grant Thornton represents 1300 partners and collaborators in 27 different areas, and currently ranks as one of the leaders in auditing and consultancy. It specializes in five main areas: Auditing, Management Consultancy, Externalization, Financial Consultancy, and Legal, Fiscal and Social Consultancy. The members of Grant Thornton International represent one of the most important world network of auditors and consultants, each member possessing independent financial, legal and managerial status.

### **About Linklaters**

Linklaters LLP specialises in advising the world's leading companies, financial institutions and governments on their most important and challenging transactions and assignments. With offices in major business and financial centres, we deliver an outstanding service to our clients throughout the world.



[www.barclays-private-equity.fr](http://www.barclays-private-equity.fr)



[www.grant-thornton.fr](http://www.grant-thornton.fr)

**Linklaters**

[www.linklaters.com](http://www.linklaters.com)

#### **Contact Presse**

Olivia Retali  
01 34 43 28 47  
[retali@essec.fr](mailto:retali@essec.fr)

#### **Contact Chaire**

Katy Olive  
01 34 43 32 92  
[olive@essec.fr](mailto:olive@essec.fr)