

Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Education Office

The Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (HASS) Overview Committee (HOC), to which the HASS Education Office provides all administrative and clerical support, continued licensing HASS, D subjects this year—new and renewal—as well as approving new HASS Communication Intensive (CI, H) subjects and dealing with many other HASS curriculum issues. The HOC discussed evaluation of CI, H subjects; a pilot project will begin in Fall 2004. HASS associate dean and HOC chair professor Charles Stewart, who serves on the recently appointed Task Force on the Undergraduate Educational Commons, established to review the General Institute Requirements (GIR), solicited committee members' input regarding the HASS component of the GIR. The committee will continue to be involved in this review in the upcoming year. The director of the HASS Education Office, Dr. Bette Davis, serves as *ex officio* member of the HOC, and administrative assistant Amy Devin took the minutes. In addition to working with the HOC, the office has continued its normal work, which includes producing the *HASS 1 Guide* each term, handling HASS concentrations and minors, the Harvard Cross, Registration Program, and compiling various statistics for the dean. We also maintained five databases—the CI, H, HASS Minor, Course 21 majors, Harvard Cross, Registration, and mailing list databases. 11

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Dr. Davis has continued to be involved with the undergraduate exchange component of the Cambridge, MIT Exchange (CME), traveling to Cambridge in early October to facilitate MIT students' receiving HASS credit for papers done at the University of Cambridge. 11

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HASS Enrollment Statistics by Field and Subject—Recent Trends

Total enrollments in all HASS subjects were down—from 9,861 a year ago to 9,610, despite the increase in HASS subjects offered—469, compared to 454 in 2002–2003 (Table 1). There were 20 more autonomous sections—575 for AY03 versus 595 for AY04. The number of HASS, D subjects taught was up slightly, to 119, compared to 111 last year. The two fields with the largest overall enrollments were the same as last year, in the same order: 11,629 in economics (down from 11,737 last year) and 11,523 in foreign languages and literatures (down from 11,613 last year). Fields with the third and fourth highest enrollments also remained the same: literature (951) and writing (764). These were followed by political science (713) and music (628, excluding 6, unit music performance subjects). The various HASS disciplines experienced a considerable range of enrollment changes—some saw a significant drop, some remained stable, and some saw significant increases. Linguistics and political science had the largest percentage increases over last year, at 34% (from 1140 to 1187) and 30% (from 549 to 713), respectively. These were followed by science, technology, and society at 17% (from 266 to 310) and visual arts at 9% (from 1139 to 1152). Other increases were slight (less than 5%). 1

HASS Concentrations: Patterns of Popularity

In 2003–2004, students submitted 2,165 HASS concentration proposals and 1,148 completion forms (Table 2), compared to 2,249 proposals and 1,245 completion forms last year. Once again, economics and foreign languages and literatures led in the number of completed HASS concentrations in 2003–2004: 322 students completed concentrations in economics (compared to 363 last year), and 221 completed concentrations in foreign languages and literatures (compared to 245 last year). The next two most popular HASS concentration fields are music, with 97 completed concentrations, and political science, with 55, followed by writing (53), philosophy (49), psychology (47), and history (41).¹

HASS Minor Programs

AY2004 showed an increase in the total number of HASS minor applications from all graduating classes—467, compared to 432 last year (Table 3). The number of HASS minors received by the Class of 2004 was also up—225, compared to 186 last year. The two most popular fields among the applications filed were the same as last year: economics (182) and music (55). There were 48 minors in foreign languages and literatures (4 in Chinese, 15 in French, 10 in German, and 19 in Spanish), 24 in political science, 21 in writing, 19 in literature, and 16 in comparative media studies. The 225 HASS minors received by members of the Class of 2004 were in 23 fields.¹

Harvard Cross-Registration

The number of MIT undergraduates cross-registered for courses at Harvard decreased slightly in 2003–2004: 250 students took 283 subjects at Harvard, compared to 2631 students enrolled in 280 subjects in 2002–2003. Last year there was an increase in these enrollments, the previous year they decreased, and the year prior to that there had been a sizable increase; they seem to fluctuate for no obvious reason. As usual, foreign languages were the most popular field of study, although they constituted a smaller portion of the total number of subjects than they have previously. Ninety-seven of the 283 subjects were in 18 different foreign languages. The most popular language was Chinese (14 enrollments), followed by French (12), Arabic (11), Urdu, Hindi (9), and Italian and Portuguese (7 each). Other languages had between one and six students enrolled. The most popular field outside foreign languages was biology (21). Other popular fields were government (19), psychology (17), economics (15), and English (13), followed by chemistry, history, and religion (9 each).¹

Undergraduate Degrees Granted in SHASS

Seventy-eight students received the SB degree in SHASS this year, down from 92 last year. Of these, 44 degrees were in economics (Course 14) and one was in political science (Course 17). During the period September 2003–June 2004, a total of 25 students completed the SB degree in humanities (Course 21). Five of these students received joint degrees, four in 21, E and one in 21, S. Another 17 received degrees in a specified field within Course 21. Four students received the SB in philosophy and four received the SB in linguistics and philosophy (Course 24). Three students were awarded the SB in comparative media studies.¹

Undergraduate Majors in SHASS

The four departments in SHASS had 148 undergraduate majors this year (Table 4); this figure includes first degrees only. Seventy-seven of these students are majoring in economics and 23 in political science. Thirty-eight students majored in humanities for their first degree in 2003–2004; of these, nine were joint majors (seven in 21, E and two in 21, S.) Of the specified majors within humanities, writing had the most majors (10), followed by music (7) and literature (6). Ten undergraduates had a first degree in philosophy or in linguistics and philosophy. Four students majored in comparative media studies.

Honors and Awards Granted to Undergraduate Majors in SHASS

Among the more notable honors achieved by SHASS majors this year were:

- Todd Anderson ESG Teaching Award: Rachel Elizabeth Dillon '04
- The Boit Manuscript Prize—Poetry, 1st prize: Aaron Parness '04
- The Boit Manuscript Prize—Fiction, 2nd prize: Jean Young Choi '06
- The Boit Manuscript Prize—Essay, 2nd prize: Rachel Dillon '04
- The Robert A. Boit Writing Prize—Poetry, 3rd prize: Jessica Young '06
- The Robert A. Boit Writing Prize—Short Story, honorable mention: Bethany D. Patten '06
- Burchard Scholars: Johnathan Boysielal '05, Jesse Collins '06, Marion Dumas '06, Erko Etula '05, Raphael Farzan, Kashani '06, Nao Gamou '05, Mahni Ghorashi '05, Elizabeth Greenwood '05, Tristan Hayeck '06, Haruka Horiuchi '05, Samuel Hwang '05, Jessica Lee '05, Laurel Yong, Hwa Lee '05, Emily Levesque '06, Kathy Li '05, Marta Luczynska '06, Farhan Merali '05, Adam Miller '06, Dinsha Mistree '05, Juliana Olmstead '06, Arti Patil '06, Mary Presley '05, Lara Rogers '05, Kenneth Roraback '06, Swati Saini '05, Thomas Schilling '06, Smita Singh '05, Tai, Weng Sio '05, Beckett Sterner '06, Stephan Stiller '06
- Undergraduate Economics Association Award for Excellence in Writing: 1st prize: Alexander Batalles '04; 2nd prize: Jeffrey Greenbaum '04; 3rd prize: Andreea Cepoiu
- I. Austin Kelly III Essay Prizes: Ethan M. Fenn '04, Mahni M. Ghorashi '05
- I. Austin Kelly III/Richard Douglas Traveling Fellowships: Jennifer L. DeBoer '05
- Vera List Prize for Visual Arts: 2nd place, Tiffany Kanaga '04
- Phi Beta Kappa: Georgiana Andreea Cepoiu '04, Hogan Chen '04, Jessie Qian Ding '04, Ethan Michael Fenn '04, Jonathan Reed Harris '04, Anne Eunhae Lee '04, Matthew Richard Levy '04, Andrew Palmer McPherson '04, Aaron Joseph Parness '04, Irit Rappley '04, David Gordon Seif '04
- Outstanding Political Science Undergraduate Thesis Award: Kaitlin Lewis '04

—Jeffrey L. Pressman Award: Matthew Brooks'05, Samantha Neuwirth'06, John Velasco'05

—William L. Stewart Jr. Award: John R. Velasco'05

—Louis Sudler Prize in the Arts: Andrew P. McPherson'04

—Anthony and Rosina Sun Fellowship: Geoffrey Kigongo'06

Bette Davis

Director

More information about the Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Education Office can be found on the web at <http://web.mit.edu/afs/athena.mit.edu/org/h/hass/www/>.