

Dean, School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences

Several developments in the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (SHASS) during academic year 2004–2005 merit mention.

SHASS continued its leadership role in developing the Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Communication Intensive (CI) component of the Communication Requirement (CR), which became part of the General Institute Requirements (GIR) for undergraduates four years ago. SHASS is currently engaged in conducting formal assessments of the HASS-CI program in order to evaluate its effectiveness and to determine whether any adjustments to the program should be recommended.

Also related to our teaching mission, SHASS faculty members are closely involved in the MIT Task Force on the Undergraduate Educational Commons, which we view as an opportunity to reassess the GIR and to explore possible ways to introduce more common learning experiences both within the SHASS curriculum and between SHASS and the Schools of Science and Engineering. In this context, SHASS faculty members have begun to reexamine the structure and content of the Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Distribution (HASS-D) Requirement.

The Poverty Action Lab (PAL), established in 2003 in the Department of Economics, continued to develop as a locus for research on poverty based on randomized experiments. The PAL offers students, faculty, and other researchers a way to become involved in social issues of global importance and provides MIT with additional opportunities for international visibility. The lab has had growing success in raising sponsored research funds from private foundations and new federal sources.

The MIT International Science and Technology Initiative (MISTI), based in the Center for International Studies, recently added Mexico to the list of countries in which it sponsors student internships. (Ongoing participant countries include China, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, and Singapore.) Fund-raising efforts are currently under way to add a Middle East component to the MISTI program.

Discussions began this past year regarding the possible establishment of a behavioral studies laboratory, which would be a collaborative effort by faculty from Economics and Political Science in SHASS, as well as from the Sloan School of Management and the Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences. The current goal is to formulate a plan for interdisciplinary research and education at the interface between the behavioral sciences and social sciences at MIT.

The Comparative Media Studies (CMS) program launched MIT's newest undergraduate major this year. In one year, it not only became the fastest growing major in SHASS but also the humanities major with the highest number of registered students. It is, in fact, the third-largest major in SHASS, after economics and political science. The new CMS major is an appropriate complement to the successful SM degree program in CMS, which is five years old.

The second class of students admitted to the newest SHASS graduate program sang its praises. The SM degree in science writing, which is located in the Program in Writing and Humanistic Studies, has as its mission the improvement of the public understanding of science.

Progress on the SHASS strategic goal of coordinating and showcasing MIT's various programs in the public understanding of science occurred in two areas. After a long search, we were able to identify and appoint an experienced science museum director and historian of science as the next director of the MIT Museum; we anticipate that he will also be appointed an adjunct professor of the public understanding of science in the Program in Science, Technology, and Society. Meanwhile, adjunct professor of science writing Alan Lightman, with colleagues in SHASS, has developed a fascinating pilot online science magazine called *Signal*, for which MIT is now seeking external support.

Overall, the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences continues to build and refine its undergraduate and graduate programs and to focus its efforts on fund raising, affirmative action, and faculty recruitment in departments, sections, and programs that are experiencing retirements and resignations.

Undergraduate Education

All MIT undergraduates must complete the HASS Requirement in order to graduate. This requirement, which is overseen by the School, is the principal point of contact between SHASS faculty and undergraduates. Undergraduates who wish a deeper engagement with the disciplines represented by the School may do so by pursuing a major or minor offered in each department or section, or an interdisciplinary major or minor. Among graduates in AY2005, 83 completed undergraduate degrees in SHASS—up from 78 graduates a year ago.

As the interests of students admitted to MIT continue to diversify, the role of SHASS in the mainstream education of MIT's scientists and engineers becomes even more important. Having faculty members of national rank in the humanities, arts, and social sciences at MIT ensures that undergraduates receive the rounded education that they expect when they are admitted. The faculty of the School take this educational mission seriously, which is reflected both in the high-quality teaching evaluations they receive and in the continuing educational innovation that emanates from the School.

Because all MIT undergraduates must take eight HASS subjects, including three HASS-D subjects, the School devotes considerable resources to overseeing the HASS Requirement, particularly the subjects licensed as HASS-D. The recent addition to the Communication Requirement has added to this oversight task, especially since the Subcommittee on the Communication Requirement has delegated to SHASS the responsibility for reviewing classes that meet the CI-H portion of the requirement. In SHASS, the HASS Overview Committee (HOC) bears direct responsibility for reviewing subjects that are proposed to fulfill the HASS-D and CI-H requirements. This past year the HOC was chaired by associate dean Charles Stewart III until he left that position to become the head of Political Science, on January 1, 2005. Committee member Professor Edward Hall (Linguistics and Philosophy) served as interim chair for the remainder of the academic year. Other

members were Professors Shankar Raman (Literature), Meg Jacobs (History), Martin Rein (Urban Studies and Planning), as well as Janet Sonenberg (Music and Theater Arts) and Ms Rose Grabowski ('05, Course 15). Dr. Bette Davis, director of the HASS Education Office, served ex officio. Professor Deborah Fitzgerald (Science, Technology, and Society) became the new associate dean on April 1; she will chair HOC in AY2006. HOC reviewed 29 proposals for HASS-D status (11 new subjects and 18 renewals) and 29 for CI-H status. Eighty-three subjects have been approved for HASS-D status and 128 subjects have now been approved as CI-H.

The Task Force on the Undergraduate Educational Commons, which is charged with considering a wide variety of undergraduate educational issues throughout the Institute, met throughout AY2005. Professor Charles Stewart III, head of Political Science and former associate dean of SHASS, is one of the associate chairs of the task force. Professors Diana Henderson (Literature) and David Mindell (Science, Technology, and Society) also serve on the task force. It is too early to speculate about the directions in which the task force will go in considering the role of the humanities, arts, and social sciences in the undergraduate curriculum. The HASS Requirement is one of the distinctive features of the curriculum, and the task force's deliberations will set the stage for addressing a number of issues that are regularly discussed among the faculty and students. Some of these issues include simplifying the structure of the HASS Requirement, coordinating the HASS-D and Communication Requirement, and sharpening the focus on studying the intersections of science and technology with the broader society. An "HOC," or oversight committee, with representatives from all disciplines in HASS has recently been established to advise the task force on the HASS portion of the GIR. This new committee will begin meeting in June and continue in AY2006.

Affirmative Action

Recently, the total number of women faculty in SHASS steadily increased for several years, peaking at 49 in AY2000 and then steadily decreasing through AY2003 to a total of 41 women faculty members. Retirements, departures, and unsuccessful promotions contributed to this decrease. However, we seem to have turned the corner. Last year (AY2004) we had 42 women, this year (AY2005) we have 44 women, and next year (AY2006) we will have 46 women faculty members. Of course, we are hopeful that the upward trend will continue. With a faculty of 152 in AY2005, women represent 29 percent of the total, and of these, 33 are tenured (30 percent of the tenured faculty). While we successfully recruited four new women (including an African American and an Asian American) to the untenured faculty for next year, we also lost two women from the junior faculty at the end of this year—one was not awarded tenure, and the other (an Asian American) accepted an appointment at Harvard.

The School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences has also had moderate success in its efforts to recruit minority faculty, although we continually strive to further diversify our faculty. The total number of minority faculty in SHASS in AY2005 is 19, and we have successfully recruited three more (all untenured, including an African American woman in Literature, an Asian American woman in History, and a Mexican man in Linguistics and Philosophy) for AY2006. However, losing an Asian American (untenured) woman

will give us a total of 21 minority faculty members in AY2006. Of the four SHASS faculty members approved for tenure this year (effective AY2006), one was an Asian American woman.

With the help of the provost's initiative and in keeping with the Institute's standards for faculty searches, at the end of AY2003 the dean and the SHASS Equal Opportunity Committee (EOC) asked the departments/sections/programs within SHASS to identify five to 10 leading senior (or tenurable at MIT) women and five to 10 leading senior (or tenurable at MIT) minority candidates in each discipline/field, and we spent AY2004 trying to recruit from those lists. The efforts led to the hire of a senior woman philosopher in the Department of Linguistics and Philosophy (L&P) this year and the recruitment of a Mexican national to the junior faculty in philosophy, beginning in AY2006. Buoyed by the success of L&P's recruitment efforts, the dean and EOC intend to reinforce our commitment by encouraging the other academic units in SHASS to follow L&P's lead in recruiting qualified women and minorities.

The School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences remains committed to increasing minority representation on its administrative staff, as well as its faculty. We currently have three minority representatives (one Hispanic and two Asian Americans) among the 36 administrative staff members (Rank List III) in the School, or approximately 8 percent. We hope to further diversify our administrative staff by working closely with the departments and programs in the School, as well as with MIT's Department of Human Resources.

Honors and Awards

The SHASS faculty earned an impressive array of honors and awards this year. Most notably:

—Professor K. Daron Acemoglu was named the Charles P. Kindleberger professor of economics.

—Assistant professor Victor Chernozhukov was named the Castle Krob career development professor of economics.

—Assistant professor Xavier Gabaix was named the Rudi Dornbusch career development professor of economics.

—Associate professor Meg Jacobs was named the Class of 1947 career development professor of history.

—Professor Henry Jenkins was named the Peter de Florez professor of literature.

—Professor Whitney K. Newey was named the Jane Berkowitz Carlton and Dennis William Carlton professor of economics.

—Professor of music and Margaret MacVicar Faculty Fellow Peter Child was awarded the 2004 Levitan Prize in the Humanities.

—Professor and head of Anthropology Jean Jackson and associate professor of history Anne McCants were appointed Margaret MacVicar Faculty Fellows.

—Class of 1941 professor of economics Olivier Blanchard was awarded an honorary doctorate by the Université du Québec, Montreal.

—Institute Professor emeritus Noam Chomsky was elected a foreign fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and a member of the American Philosophical Society.

—Class of 1948 career development associate professor of theater arts Thomas DeFrantz was awarded the 2003 Errol Hill Award by the American Society of Theatre Research for his edited anthology, *Dancing Many Drums: Excavations in African American Dance* (University of Wisconsin Press, 2002).

—Institute Professor Peter Diamond's Munich lectures entitled "Taxation, Incomplete Markets and Social Security" (MIT Press, 2002) won this year's Paul A. Samuelson Award from TIAA CREF for outstanding scholarly writing on lifelong financial security.

—Ford international professor of history John W. Dower and Kochi Prefecture–John Manjiro professor of language and culture Shigeru Miyagawa received a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities for their Visualizing Cultures project. Professors Dower and Miyagawa are also recipients of the Class of 1960 Innovation in Education Award.

—Elizabeth and James Killian professor of economics and management Paul L. Joskow was selected by the International Association for Energy Economics to receive a 2004 award for outstanding contributions to the profession.

—Professor of political science Stephen Meyer was awarded the Arthur C. Smith Award for meaningful contributions and devotion to undergraduate student life and learning at MIT.

—Ford international professor of political science and director of the Center for International Studies Richard J. Samuels's book, *Machiavelli's Children: Leaders and Their Legacies in Italy and Japan*, is the winner of the 2004 Jervis-Schroeder Prize awarded by the International History and Politics Section of the American Political Science Association. Professor Samuels's book was also awarded the 2004 Marraro Prize by the Society of Italian Historical Studies.

—Kenan Sahin distinguished professor of music Evan Ziporyn is a 2004 recipient of the American Academy of Arts and Letters Goddard Lieberson Fellowship.

Fundraising

New gifts and pledges for FY2005 totaled \$5,741,339. The top fundraising priorities for SHASS continue to be increased support for graduate fellowships and professorships at all levels. Specific priorities include the Graduate Program in Science Writing, the Comparative Media Studies Program, the Poverty Action Lab, the Center for

International Studies (including major initiatives within the center, such as the MISTI programs), the Indigenous Languages Initiative (and other programs) in Linguistics, and Chinese language and culture.

Faculty Promotions, Administrative Changes, Retirements

AY2005 has seen two retirements, three resignations, and 12 new faculty appointments within SHASS. Associate professor William Watson (History) and Andrew W. Mellon professor of human development Kenneth Keniston (Science, Technology, and Society) both retired. The three resignations were at the associate professor level, two of which were without tenure. Four faculty members received tenure, effective July 1, 2005: David Autor and Victor Chernozhukov (Economics), Chappell Lawson (Political Science), and Emma Teng (Foreign Languages and Literatures).

SHASS was successful in recruiting seven new faculty members (all nontenured) for AY2006. Of these seven, two will join the faculty as associate professors— Andrea Campbell (Political Science) and Agustin Rayo (Linguistics and Philosophy)—and five will become assistant professors in Economics, History, Literature, and Science, Technology and Society.

Philip S. Khoury
Kenan Sahin Dean
Professor of History

More information about the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences can be found online at <http://web.mit.edu/shass/>.