

School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences

Several developments that occurred in the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (SHASS) in 2005–2006 merit mention.

SHASS continued its leadership role in developing the humanities, arts, and social sciences communication intensive (CI-H) component of the Communication Requirement, which became part of the General Institute Requirements (GIR) for undergraduates five years ago. SHASS is participating in assessments of this relatively new program, in order to evaluate its effectiveness and to determine whether to recommend any adjustments to the program.

Also related to our teaching mission, SHASS faculty members remain closely involved in MIT's 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 other schools. In this context, Kenan Sahin dean Philip S. Khoury appointed associate dean Deborah Fitzgerald as chair of the Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Plus (HOC+) Committee to reexamine the structure and content of the Humanities, Arts, and Social Science Distribution (HASS-D) Requirement. HOC+ completed its reexamination and submitted its findings to the task force.

The Poverty Action Lab (PAL), established in 2003 in the Department of Economics, continued to develop as a locus of poverty research based on randomized experiments. 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 acquired a major endorsement and a new name, the Abdul-Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL). It continues to enjoy success in raising research funds from private foundations and new federal sources.

The School continues to build and refine its undergraduate and graduate programs and to focus its efforts on fundraising, affirmative action, and faculty recruitment in departments, sections, and programs that are experiencing retirements and resignations.

Undergraduate Education

All MIT undergraduates must complete the Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences 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 in each department and section, in addition to several interdisciplinary majors and minors. Among graduates in 2005–2006, 97 completed undergraduate degrees in the School. That is up from 83 graduates a year ago.

As the interests of students admitted to MIT continue to diversify, the role of the School in the mainstream education of MIT's scientists and engineers becomes even more important. Having faculty members in the fields of humanities, arts, and social sciences

of national rank ensures that MIT undergraduates receive the rounded education that they expect when they are admitted. The faculty of the School takes this educational mission seriously, which is reflected in the high quality teaching evaluations received by our teaching instructors and the continuing educational innovation that emanates from the various faculties.

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 delegated to the School the responsibility for reviewing classes that meet the CI-H portion of the Communication Requirement. The HASS Overview Committee (HOC) bears the direct responsibility for reviewing subjects that are proposed to fulfill the HASS-D and CI-H requirements. This past year HOC was chaired by STS professor Deborah Fitzgerald, who became SHASS associate dean on April 1, 2005. Other members were associate professors Shankar Raman (Literature), Meg Jacobs (History), Janet Sonenberg, fall 2005, and Thomas DeFrantz, spring 2006 (Music and Theater Arts); assistant professor Caspar Hare (Linguistics and Philosophy); and Samuel Kesner ('06, Course 2). Dr. Bette Davis, director of the HASS Education Office, served *ex officio*. HASS-D and CI-H licenses were given automatic extensions this year so that HOC could devote its attention to other issues. One of those issues was the evaluation of CI-H classes, a continuing discussion from last year.

The Task Force on the Undergraduate Educational Commons, charged with considering a wide variety of undergraduate educational issues throughout the Institute, had met throughout 2004–2005 and continued its work in 2005–2006. Professor Charles Stewart III, head of the Political Science Department and former associate dean of SHASS, is one of the associate chairs of the task force. Associate professor Diana Henderson (Literature) and David Mindell, the Frances and David Dibner professor of the history of engineering and manufacturing (STS), also serve on the task force. In May 2005, the Class of 1942 professor of chemistry Robert J. Silbey, who is dean of science and chair of the task force, asked Dean Khoury to establish a committee that would reevaluate the HASS Requirement as part of MIT's General Institute Requirements. The task force, which had been reevaluating the science portion of the GIR for over a year at that time, had begun looking at the HASS GIR and developed the idea that it could be simplified and perhaps reorganized to include a "common experience" for first-year students. Other goals for this portion of the GIR were to better coordinate the HASS-D and CI-H requirements and to focus on studying the intersections of science and technology with the broader society.

Dean Khoury appointed an HOC+ Committee, which consisted of HOC members plus a faculty representative from each unit in SHASS not represented on HOC, as well as faculty representatives from the School of Architecture and the Sloan School of Management (schools that include social sciences faculty). HOC+ met weekly during the summer and throughout the fall semester; Dean Fitzgerald wrote the report with recommendations and submitted it to the task force in January 2006. Basic elements of the recommendations include a "Freshman Experience" HASS class and changing the

HASS-D Requirement from five to three categories: humanities, arts, and social sciences. It was also proposed that the concentration component of the HASS Requirement remain essentially the same.

Affirmative Action

The number of women faculty members in SHASS steadily increased for several years, peaking at 49 in AY2000 before steadily decreasing through AY2003 to a total of 41. Retirements, departures, and unsuccessful promotions contributed to this decrease. However, we seem to have turned the corner. Last year (AY2005) we had 44 women on our faculty, this year (AY2006) we have 45, and next year (AY2007), we will have. Of course, we are hopeful this upward trend will continue. With a faculty of 154 in AY2006, women represent 29 percent of the total, and 34 of them are tenured (equivalent to 31 percent of the tenured faculty). While we successfully recruited five untenured new women (including an African American and an Asian American) to the faculty this year, only four will join our faculty in AY2007, and the fifth will join us in AY2008. In addition, we also lost one senior woman to retirement at the end of this year, leaving us with a net increase of three women for AY2007.

The School has had moderate success in its efforts to recruit minority faculty, although we continually strive to further diversify the faculty. The total number of minority faculty in SHASS in AY2006 is 21, and we have successfully recruited two more (both untenured, including an African American woman in Literature and an Asian American woman in Economics) for AY2007, which will bring our total to 23. Of the five SHASS faculty approved for tenure this year (effective AY2007), one is a Hispanic man and two are women.

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 ten leading senior (or tenurable at MIT) women and five to ten leading senior (or tenurable at MIT) minorities in each discipline/field, and we have spent the last three years (AY2004–AY2006) trying to recruit from these lists. These efforts led to the hire of a senior woman philosopher in the Department of Linguistics and Philosophy (L&P) last year and the recruitment of a junior philosopher (Mexican national), who joined the department 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 to follow L&P's lead in recruiting qualified women and minorities.

The School remains committed to increasing the minority representation of the administrative staff, as well as faculty. We currently have five minorities (one African American, one Native American, one Hispanic American [born in Puerto Rico] and two Asian Americans) among the 40 members of administrative staff (Rank List III) in the school (approximately 13 percent). We will continue efforts to further diversify our administrative staff by working closely with the departments and programs in the School and with the Department of Human Resources.

Honors and Awards

SHASS faculty members garnered an array of honors and awards this year. Most notable were the following:

— Associate professor Andrea Campbell was named the Alfred Henry and Jean Morrison Hayes career development professor of political science.

— Professor Campbell was also awarded a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Investigator Award in health policy research, together with Kimberly Morgan, for their proposal “The Medicare Modernization Act of 2003: Ideologies, Interests, and Policy Feedbacks in the Contemporary Politics of Medicare.”

— Associate professor Christopher Capozzola was named the Lister Brothers career development professor of history.

— Professor Esther Duflo was named the Abdul Latif Jameel professor in poverty alleviation and development economics.

— Charles P. Kindleberger professor of economics K. Daron Acemoglu and Professor Duflo have been selected as Global Young Leaders for 2006 by the World Economic Forum.

— Kenan Sahin dean Philip S. Khoury was named the Ford Foundation international professor of history.

— Professor James Paradis was named the Robert M. Metcalfe professor of writing.

— Associate professor Agustin Rayo was named the Ford Foundation career development professor of philosophy.

— Associate professor Jonathan Rodden was named the Ford Foundation international career development professor of political science.

— Professor Rosalind Williams was named the Bern Dibner professor of science and technology.

— Associate professor of anthropology Stefan Helmreich was awarded the 2006 Levitan Prize in the Humanities.

— Professor of literature and women’s studies Ruth Perry and Ferrari P. Ward professor of linguistics David Pesetsky were appointed Margaret MacVicar Faculty Fellows. Professor Perry also won a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship for her biography of Anna Gordon Brown.

— Institute Professor Peter Diamond is the first recipient of the Jean-Jacques Laffont Prize in Economics.

—Professor of anthropology and science and technology studies Michael Fischer won the 2005 American Ethnological Society Senior Book Prize, presented at the American Anthropological Association Meetings for his book *Emergent Forms of Life and the Anthropological Voice*.

—Class of 1949 professor of music Ellen Harris received a National Endowment for the Humanities fellowship for her upcoming book on George Frideric Handel. Professor Harris was also the recipient of the Gyorgy Kepes Fellowship Prize.

—Associate professor of writing Helen Elaine Lee was awarded MIT's Jephtha H. and Emily V. Wade Award.

—Associate professor of science writing Thomas Levenson received the 2005 National Academies Communications Award in the TV/Radio category for his film "Origins: Back to the Beginning."

—Adjunct professor of writing Alan Lightman was awarded Sigma Xi's 2006 John P. McGovern Science and Society Award.

—Ford International professor of history John Dower and Kochi Prefecture-John Manjiro professor in Japanese language and culture and professor of linguistics and Japanese Shigeru Miyagawa's project *Visualizing Cultures* was selected by the National Endowment for the Humanities as "one of the best online resources for education in the humanities."

—T.T. and Wei Fong Chao professor of Asian civilizations Peter Perdue's book *China Marches West: The Qing Conquest of Central Eurasia* was named an Outstanding New Book by *Foreign Affairs* in the spring of 2005.

—Assistant professor of theater arts Jay Scheib was named a 2005–2007 recipient in the National Endowment for the Arts/Theater Communications Group Career Development Program for Directors and Designers.

—Associate professor of Chinese studies Emma Teng was awarded a Frederick Burkhardt Residential Fellowship for Recently Tenured Scholars by the American Council of Learned Societies.

Fundraising

New gifts and pledges for FY2006 totaled an unprecedented \$28,300,145. Highlights included a major commitment of endowment to and the naming of the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab; a major endowment gift for the French program (\$3 million); and \$1.2 million in new expendable support pledged toward the Hyperstudio and Comparative Media Studies.

Faculty Promotions, Administrative Changes, Retirements

AY2006 has seen two retirements, five resignations, and 10 new faculty hires within the School. Among the faculty retirements were those of Professors Evelyn Fox Keller

(Science, Technology and Society) and Harvey Sapolsky (Political Science). Three of the resignations were by associate professors, two without tenure and one tenured, and two were by assistant professors. A total of five faculty members in the School were promoted to tenure this year, effective July 1, 2006: Stefan Helmreich and Christine Walley of the Anthropology Program, Meg Jacobs of the History Faculty, Jonathan Rodden of the Political Science Department, and Junot Diaz of the Program in Writing and Humanistic Studies.

The School was successful in recruiting nine new faculty members (all but one non-tenured) for AY2007 and one more (also non-tenured) for AY2008. Of the nine joining us next year, one will join the faculty as an associate professor (Roger White in the Department of Linguistics and Philosophy) and eight will join us as assistant professors (of economics, linguistics and philosophy, literature, political science, music and theater arts, and science, technology and society).

At the end of AY2006, Philip S. Khoury, Kenan Sahin dean and professor of history, stepped down as School dean after fifteen years to assume his new position as associate provost. Associate dean Deborah Fitzgerald was appointed interim dean while a search committee looks for a new dean.

Philip S. Khoury
Kenan Sahin Dean
Professor of History

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