

School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences

The [School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences](#) (SHASS), the third largest school at MIT (after Engineering and Science), includes a teaching faculty comparable in size to that of most liberal arts colleges and plays a number of important roles at MIT. Among other functions, the School:

- Oversees the Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (HASS) Requirement, an eight-class portion of the General Institute Requirement
- Operates the MIT International Science and Technology Initiatives (MISTI), sending nearly 700 students on international internships each year, making MISTI the largest international program for students at MIT
- Supports five doctoral programs in economics, political science; linguistics; philosophy; and history, anthropology, and science, technology, and society—all ranking within the top 10 such programs internationally
- Teaches several thousand students each year in music and theater as well as in foreign languages

In AY2013, the School hosted four visiting committees: Humanities, Economics, Music and Theater Arts, and Political Science. These meetings were very productive, and the units are continuing to work hard to address their challenges and opportunities.

Administratively, the Comparative Media Studies program merged with Writing and Humanistic Studies to form Comparative Media Studies/Writing (CMS/W), a more robust and capacious unit that supports two master's programs and the largest humanities major in the School.

On the building front, efforts have begun to renovate E52, home of the Department of Economics, which has been badly in need of repair for many years. Economics has moved to swing space in Buildings 17, 18, and 19 and will return to its renovated space in about two years. We continue to work on fundraising for a new home for Music and Theater Arts.

The sections to follow provide more details on teaching and research in SHASS over the past year.

Undergraduate Education

All MIT undergraduates must complete the HASS Requirement in order to graduate. This requirement 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 pursue a major or minor in one of our departments or sections or choose from among several interdisciplinary majors and minors.

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

and social sciences ensures that MIT undergraduates receive the rounded education that they expect when they matriculate. SHASS faculty members take this educational mission seriously, as reflected in the high-quality teaching evaluations received by our instructors and the continuing educational innovation that emanates from the various faculties.

Oversight of the HASS Requirement is the purview of the Subcommittee on the HASS Requirement, a standing subcommittee of the Committee on the Undergraduate Program. Students entering after fall 2010 come under the new HASS Requirement, so the majority of undergraduates are now fully under the revised HASS Distribution (HASS-D) system. To account for students taking more than four years to graduate, the designation of subjects as HASS-D subjects will be maintained for one additional year, and the School will continue to offer the HASS-D lottery for an additional year. The HASS-D lottery and HASS-D designations will be fully phased out by fall 2014, at which point enrollment management capabilities should be available in the online registration system.

The SHASS Education Advisory Committee (formerly the HASS Overview Committee) bears direct responsibility for reviewing subjects that are proposed to fulfill the HASS-D requirements. This past year, the committee was chaired by associate dean Kai von Fintel. The other committee members were professors Fotini Christia (Political Science), Peter Donaldson (Literature), Heather Paxson (Anthropology), Jeff Ravel (History), and Jing Wang (Foreign Languages and Literatures) and student Raimundo (Krishna) Esteva (Economics). Liz Friedman, HASS academic administrator, served as an ex officio member. No HASS-D licenses were granted for new subjects, and the SHASS Education Advisory Committee is no longer requiring HASS-D relicensing (since the HASS-D course designation is being discontinued).

The SHASS dean's office continues to support curricular renewal and, especially, the development of HASS Exploration (formerly First Year Focus) subjects both logistically and financially.

Undergraduate Enrollment Statistics: Recent Trends

Total enrollments in all undergraduate SHASS subjects increased this year to 10,338, compared to 10,021 in AY2012 and 9,741 in AY2011. The number of undergraduate SHASS subjects offered was the same as in FY2012: 513 (compared to 493 in AY2011). The three fields with the largest overall enrollments were also the same as last year: foreign languages and literatures (2,564, up from 2,527 last year), economics (1,576, down from 1,720 last year), and music (1,320, up from 1,256 last year). The next highest enrollments were in literature (965), writing (945), and political science (734). For a full breakdown of enrollments in SHASS undergraduate and graduate subjects, refer to Table 1.

Harvard Cross Registration

The number of MIT undergraduates who cross-registered for courses at Harvard University increased this year: 194 students enrolled in 210 subjects, compared to 164 students in 177 subjects in AY2012 and 174 students in 195 subjects in AY2011. Enrollments still seem to fluctuate for no clear reason. Foreign languages maintained

its rank as the most popular field. In AY2013, 84 students enrolled in foreign languages, compared to 53 students in the sciences, 42 students in the social sciences, and 31 students in the humanities.

The 78 foreign language subjects included a total of 20 different languages. The most popular languages were Arabic (15), Tamil (9), Igbo (9), Italian (8), Russian (7), Chinese (6), Korean (6), and Portuguese (6). The most popular fields outside foreign languages were mathematics (17), government (12), economics (10), physics (9), and biology (9).

Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Concentrations

In AY2013, students completed 1,093 concentrations in SHASS fields, compared to 1,065 in AY2012 and 1,047 in AY2011. Once again, economics and foreign languages led in the number of completed HASS concentrations; in AY2013, 283 students completed concentrations in economics (compared to 272 last year) and 245 completed concentrations in foreign languages and literatures (compared to 251 last year). For a breakdown by languages, see Table 2. The third most popular HASS concentration field was music, with 118 completed concentrations. The next most popular concentrations were science, technology, and society (63); political science (52); history (51); literature (39); comparative media studies (38); and philosophy (38).

Minors

SHASS oversees all HASS minors (including those in departments outside of SHASS). The number of HASS minors awarded in AY2013 was 154, compared to 171 in AY2012 and 198 in AY2011. The 154 HASS minors awarded to members of the Class of 2013 were in 23 fields. The three most awarded minors were economics (38), music (21), and foreign languages and literatures (20).

Undergraduate Majors

In AY2013, 71 students graduated with majors in SHASS fields, compared to 86 in AY2012 and 117 in AY2011. Among these students, 37 majors were in economics, eight were in political science, and seven were in comparative media studies.

Honors and Awards Granted to Undergraduate Majors

The following are among the more notable honors achieved by SHASS majors this year.

2013 Burchard Scholars: Anne Cai (political science), Ravi Charan (political science), Stephanie Cheng (economics), Abdulhamid Haidar (economics), Jacqueline Han (political science), Cory Hernandez (political science and American studies), Rebecca Reed (linguistics), Susan Shepherd (writing), Caroline Shinkle (economics), Laura Stilwell (economics), and Sheila Xu (science, technology, and society)

2013 Phi Beta Kappa Inductees: Moya Chin (economics), Raimundo Esteva (economics), Justin Gallagher (philosophy), Yangzhou Hu (economics), Sunny Long (economics), Jingxiao Lu (economics), Ting Mao (economics), Alberta Ngan (economics), Thai Pham (economics), Elizabeth Santorella (economics), Andrew Stuntz (economics), and Ngee Yong Teo (economics)

Award for Excellence in Foreign Languages and Literatures: C.J. Enloe (economics and foreign languages and literatures)

2014 Fulbright Study/Research Grant: Noam Angrist (economics)

Jeffrey L. Pressman Award for Internship/Research in US Politics, Government, Education, Law or Policy: John Halloran (political science)

Jerome B. Wiesner Student Arts Award: Jean Sack (music)

Joseph D. Everingham Award: Hyo Jeong Choi (theater arts)

Kelly-Douglas Traveling Fellowship: Sheila Xu (science, technology, and society)

Louis Kampf Writing Prize in Women's and Gender Studies: Roseanne Chanchall (anthropology) and Alicia Singham Goodwin (women's and gender studies)

Louis Sudler Prize in the Arts: Emily R. Su (music)

MIT Martin Luther King Jr. Inspired Art and Performance Contest Winner: Sheila Xu (science, technology, and society)

Peter S. Donaldson Prize in Literature: Anthony Farrell (literature)

Sudler Prize in Music: Amelia Carver (music)

Undergraduate Economics Association Prize for Excellence in Writing: C.J. Enloe (economics and foreign languages and literatures), second place, and Yangzhou Hu (economics) and Suyan She (economics), third place

Diversity

In an effort to strengthen the School's diversity efforts, we have hired a diversity manager (at the staff level). In addition, we have formed a new faculty diversity committee that will be chaired by associate dean Kai von Fintel. The committee will review the School's past and current diversity efforts and review diversity best practices. The diversity manager has started and will continue to meet with all of the department heads, section heads, and administrative officers to discuss diversity efforts and school demographic data in order to assess and develop a future diversity strategy.

The Department of Political Science has established a race and diversity pre-doctoral fellowship. This fellowship program (like other pre-doctoral fellowship programs that exist in the field) will recruit promising PhD students who are in the final (writing) stage of their dissertations and offer them a year of support in the form of a modest stipend, health insurance, an office, and a faculty mentor, all aimed at helping them complete their dissertations. The hope is that identifying and building ties with promising underrepresented minority PhD students before they go on the job market will result in a greater likelihood of their applying to the Department of Political Science, while at the same time sending a message to faculty and graduate students that MIT is, in fact, a good place to work. The continuation of this program will depend on its success.

Honors and Awards

SHASS faculty members garnered an array of honors and awards this year, as highlighted below.

David Kaiser, Germeshausen professor of the history of science and director of the Program in Science, Technology, and Society, won the 2012 Book of the Year award from *Physics World* magazine for *How the Hippies Saved Physics*.

Junot Díaz, Rudge and Nancy Allen professor of writing, won a MacArthur Fellowship.

Professor of philosophy Anna Mikusheva received the 2012 Elaine Bennett Research Prize, awarded by the American Economic Association's Committee on the Status of Women in the Economics Profession.

Roger Petersen, Arthur and Ruth Sloan professor of political science, won the Distinguished Book Award for *Western Intervention in the Balkans*.

Stefan Helmreich, Elting E. Morison professor of anthropology, won the 2012 Rachel Carson Book Prize, awarded by the Society for the Social Study of Science. He also received the best paper award from the American Political Science Association's Elections, Public Opinion, and Voting Behavior section.

Assistant professor of science writing Seth Mnookin received the 2012 Science in Society Journalism Award for his book *The Panic Virus*.

Associate professor of economics Parag Pathak received an Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers.

Associate professor of anthropology Heather Paxson won the 2013 Diana Forsythe Prize for her book *The Life of Cheese: Crafting Food and Value in America*.

Associate professor of anthropology Erica James won the 2013 Gordon K. and Sybille Lewis Award for her book *Democratic Insecurities: Violence, Trauma, and Intervention in Haiti*.

Sherry Turkle, Abby Rockefeller Mauzé professor of the social studies of science and technology, received Harvard's Centennial Medal.

Professor of literature Shankar Raman received the 2013 James A. ('45) and Ruth Levitan Prize in the Humanities.

Graham Jones, Lister Brothers career development associate professor, won the 2013 MIT Edgerton Award for exceptional distinction in teaching and research.

Professor of political science Adam Berinsky received the Warren J. Mitofsky Award for Excellence in Public Opinion Research from the Roper Center.

Associate professor of political science Chappell Lawson received the James A. and Ruth Levitan Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Susan Silbey, Leon and Anne Goldberg professor of humanities, sociology, and anthropology, won the 2012 W. Richard Scott Award for Distinguished Scholarship from the American Sociological Association for her “outstanding contribution to the discipline.”

Suzanne Berger, Raphael Dorman-Helen Starbuck professor of political science, received MIT’s Gordon Y. Billard Award.

Associate professor of political science Fotini Christia received the 2013 Luebbert Best Book Award for *Alliance Formation in Civil Wars*.

Professor of history Elizabeth Wood’s essay “Performing Memory: Vladimir Putin and the Celebration of WWII in Russia” was named one of the most-read Slavic journal articles of 2012.

Bengt Robert Holmström, Paul A. Samuelson professor of economics, was named a fellow of the American Finance Association.

Associate professor of economics David Donaldson was awarded a 2013 Sloan Research Fellowship.

Esther Duflo, Abdul Latif Jameel professor of poverty alleviation and development economics, was selected as a 2013 Dan David Prize laureate. Also, she was appointed to the President’s Global Development Council by President Obama.

David Mindell, Frances and David Dibner professor of the history of engineering and manufacturing, won the Gardner-Lasser Aerospace History Literature Award for his book *Digital Apollo: Human and Machine in Spaceflight*.

David Pesetsky, Ferrari P. Ward professor of modern languages and linguistics and Margaret MacVicar Faculty Fellow, was elected a fellow of the Linguistic Society of America.

Fundraising

New gifts and pledges for FY2013 totaled \$15,232,412. Not reflected in the FY2013 total, we received several pledges toward the performing arts facility project, including two \$1.5 million pledges from individual donors. Other highlights included a \$1.3 million pledge and four new six-figure gifts and pledges to MISTI and a \$3 million Omidayar Network Fund pledge to the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab for policy outreach.

Faculty Promotions, Administrative Changes, and Retirements

In AY2013 there were two retirements, five resignations, and eight new faculty hires within the School. Professors Lowell Lindgren (Music and Theater Arts) and Olivier Blanchard (Economics) retired from MIT. Associate professor (without tenure) Panle

Barwick (Economics), professors Richard Holton and Rae Langton (Linguistics and Philosophy), and professors Daniel Posner and Edward Steinfeld (Political Science) resigned. Five faculty members in the School were promoted to the rank of associate professor with tenure, effective July 1, 2013: Sandy Alexandre (Literature), Arnaud Costinot (Economics), Douglas Harrell (Comparative Media Studies/Writing), Erica James (Anthropology), and David Singer (Political Science).

All eight of the new hires will join the faculty in AY2014. Five will be assistant professors (in Foreign Languages and Literatures, History, Linguistics and Philosophy, and Political Science), one will be an associate professor without tenure (History), and two will be full professors (Political Science and Comparative Media Studies/Writing).

There will be significant leadership changes in the School in the upcoming academic year. Professor of literature Mary Fuller will replace professor James Buzard as section head of Literature. Professor David Pesetsky will replace professor Richard Holton as head of the Department of Linguistics and Philosophy. Melissa Nobles, Arthur and Ruth Sloan professor of political science, will replace professor Richard Locke as head of the Department of Political Science. Kenan Sahin distinguished professor of music Evan Ziporyn will be replaced by professor of music Peter Child. Edward Schiappa, John E. Burchard professor of humanities, will replace professor James Paradis as interim head of Comparative Media Studies/Writing. Finally, professor of foreign languages and literatures Emma Teng will replace professor Sally Haslanger as director of the Program in Women's and Gender Studies.

Deborah K. Fitzgerald
Kenan Sahin Dean
Professor of the History of Technology

Table 1. Enrollment in School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Fields, 2012–2013*

Field	Undergraduate Subjects	Undergraduate Enrollments	Graduate Subjects	Graduate Enrollments
Anthropology	21	419	10	113
Comparative media studies	26	424	36	497
Economics	31	1,576	47	1,050
Foreign languages and literatures	142	2,564	42	981
History	39	581	1	6
Linguistics	12	289	25	267
Literature	62	965	0	0
Music	72	1,320	8	59
Philosophy	18	605	9	86
Political science	41	734	28	359
Science, technology, and society	25	624	17	313
Theater arts	25	538	4	27
Women's and gender studies	17	278	2	3
Writing	54	945	4	51
Total (master subjects only)**	510	10,338	115	1,636

*These enrollments are for subjects offered by departments, programs, and sections in the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences at the end of the fall 2012, 2013 Independent Activities Period, and spring 2013 semesters. The numbers shown are for undergraduate and graduate subjects, excluding only special subjects such as theses and Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program projects.

**In the case of joint and “meets with” subject clusters, enrollment numbers are calculated according to the total number of students in the class, regardless of the subject number through which they signed up. Totals are calculated according to master subjects and will not match the totals for each column (which count jointly listed subjects in each of the fields involved). In the few cases where subjects have two “meets with” numbers in the same field (such as the “globalization” corequisite language subjects in foreign languages and literatures), enrollments are counted twice, once under each subject number. Very few subjects have two subject numbers in the same field, so the effect is minimal.

Table 2. Concentrations in the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences, as of July 2013

Concentration Field	All Active Concentrations	Completed Concentrations
Ancient and medieval studies	14	9
Anthropology	24	12
Comparative media studies	78	38
Development economics	3	0
Economics	482	283
Ethics	6	4
Ethnic studies	0	0
Foreign languages*	490	245
History	67	51
Linguistics	45	20
Literature	73	39
Music	190	118
Philosophy	65	38
Political science	85	52
Regional studies		
African and African Diaspora studies	1	0
American studies	2	1
Asian and Asian Diaspora studies	39	22
Latin American and Latino studies	3	1
Middle Eastern studies	1	0
Russian and Eurasian studies	2	1
Religion	3	1
Science, technology, and society	92	63
Special concentrations	0	0
Theater arts	86	36
Women's and gender studies	34	26
Writing	61	33
Total	1,946	1,093

Table 2. Concentrations in the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences, as of July 2013 (cont.)

Foreign Language Concentration	All Active Concentrations	Completed Concentrations
Chinese	118	53
English as a second language	7	5
French	91	37
German	47	22
Japanese	72	45
Other languages	11	5
Portuguese	13	7
Russian	0	0
Spanish	123	67
Studies in international culture and literature	6	3
Theory of languages	2	1
Total	490	245

Table 3. All Enrolled School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Undergraduate Majors, AY2003–AY2013

Year	Economics	Humanities	Linguistics and Philosophy	Political Science	Total
2002–2003	(80)	(31)	(6)	(23)	(140)
2003–2004	(77)	(38)	(10)	(23)	(148)
2004–2005	(60)	(46)	(10)	(39)	(155)
2005–2006	(64)	(38)	(10)	(16)	(128)
2006–2007	(70)	(26)	(11)	(18)	(125)
2007–2008	(68)	(32)	(8)	(20)	(128)
2008–2009	(82)	(39)	(5)	(14)	(140)
2009–2010	154 (90)	92 (37)	11 (6)	35 (17)	292 (150)
2010–2011	156 (95)	75 (33)	17 (4)	40 (19)	281 (151)
2011–2012	125 (72)	66 (23)	19 (9)	26 (16)	236 (120)
2012–2013	109 (72)	65 (31)	19 (11)	24 (15)	217 (129)

Note: Figures in parentheses are from the Registrar's "Y" Report as of October of the previous year and do not include non-primary degrees or second majors. Figures not in parentheses were calculated in July, after commencement, and include non-primary degrees, second majors, and any majors that were declared between October and July.

Table 4. All Enrolled School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Graduate Students, AY2003–AY2013

Year	Economics	HASTS*	Linguistics/ Philosophy	Political Science	CMS**	Science Writing	Total
2002–2003	135	28	67	79	21	7	337
2003–2004	130	28	65	76	18	7	324
2004–2005	132	28	67	77	16	6	326
2005–2006	121	27	72	80	21	7	328
2006–2007	122	28	70	68	20	11	319
2007–2008	114	30	73	68	20	7	312
2008–2009	115	29	71	69	24	9	317
2009–2010	118	30	66	68	12	7	301
2010–2011	119	28	68	57	3	7	282
2011–2012	133	27	66	56	16	8	306
2012–2013	123	31	70	60	21	9	314

Note: Figures are from the registrar's "Y" Report as of October of the previous year.

*History, Anthropology, and Science, Technology, and Society

**Comparative Media Studies

Table 5. Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Minors, as of July 2013

Field	All Active Minors	Minors Awarded*
Ancient and medieval studies	2	0
Anthropology	0	0
Applied international studies	30	16
Art, culture, and technology	3	2
Comparative media studies	5	4
Economics	78	38
Foreign languages		
Chinese	6	3
French	12	5
German	4	0
Japanese	10	7
Spanish	8	5
History	9	5
History of art and architecture	4	2
International development	0	0
Linguistics	2	0
Literature	10	8
Music	35	21
Philosophy	1	1
Political science	21	12
Psychology	7	4
Public policy	3	2
Regional studies		
African and African Diaspora studies	1	0
Asian and Asian Diaspora studies	6	3
Latin American studies	1	0
Middle Eastern studies	1	1
Russian and Eurasian studies	0	0
Science, technology, and society	5	4
Theater arts	9	5
Urban studies and planning	2	2
Women's and gender studies	1	1
Writing	7	3
Total	283	154

*Includes September 2012, February 2013, and June 2013 graduates.