

## 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), employs 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), which sends more than 750 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 (HASTS)—all ranking within the top 10 such programs internationally
- Teaches more than 10,000 students each year in Global Studies and Languages, Economics, Music, Political Science, Anthropology, Comparative Media Studies, History, Linguistics, Literature, Philosophy, Theater Arts, Women’s and Gender Studies, Writing, and Science, Technology, and Society
- Offers 19 undergraduate major programs and 26 undergraduate minor programs

In AY2015, the School hosted meetings of four visiting committees: Economics, Humanities, 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.

Foreign Languages and Literatures became Global Studies and Languages. Its commitment to teaching languages and overseas cultures remains unchanged, but its focus is shifting from a literature- and text-based approach to cultural studies toward an approach that acknowledges the broader range of skills and disciplinary approaches necessary for dealing with today’s globalizing world.

Several renovation and construction projects were under way in FY2015. The renovation of E52 is nearing completion, and in January 2016 Economics will move back into the building, occupying floors 3, 4, and 5.

Several projects involved Music and Theater Arts:

- Design was completed and construction begun for the relocation of the Piano Lab from the basement of Building 4 to new space in Building 24. Completion and subsequent occupancy are anticipated for late fall of 2015.
- The overall renewal of Kresge required the relocation of the Music percussion practice and storage room and relocation of the Green Room on the basement level. At the beginning of September, work was all but complete; final completion is anticipated for fall 2015.

- In preparation for the Kendall Square Initiative, it is necessary to relocate Theater's activities currently housed in Rinaldi (E33) to W97. A broader plan was developed to take this opportunity to consolidate in one building the Theater Arts program that currently operates in Walker Memorial, Rinaldi, E38, E54, portions of Building 4 and Building 10, and Kresge Auditorium and Little Theater. In early September this project was approved by the Committee for Renovation and Space Planning, the Building Committee, and the Executive Committee.

Renovations to Music classrooms in Building 4 slated for completion before the start of the 2015 fall term were postponed for a year as a result of high construction bids. The Writing and Communication Center and the Writing, Rhetoric, and Professional Communication group are being relocated from E39 to E17 in advance of the Kendall Square project. Linguistics and Philosophy undertook renovations to the former library and reading room on the 7th and 8th floors of Building 32 D tower to create additional offices and relocate a conference room. These renovations will be completed in fall 2015.

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

### **Undergraduate Education**

The SHASS faculty are uniquely involved in the intellectual development of all MIT undergraduates. Although MIT students do not all major in humanities disciplines, every student must take eight subjects in the humanities, arts, and social sciences. Undergraduates who want 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' educational mission is reflected in the high-ranked teaching evaluations received by our instructors and the educational innovations that emanate 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 who entered after fall 2010 must comply with the new HASS requirement. Under this system, undergraduates are required to take three HASS Distribution subjects, one from each of the three categories: Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences. The majority of undergraduates are now fully under the revised HASS distribution system.

The SHASS Education Advisory Committee has been charged with considering the full range of issues related to undergraduate education in our School. This past year, the committee was chaired by Associate Dean Kai von Fintel. The other committee members were Professors Martin Hackl (Linguistics), Lily Tsai (Political Science), Christopher

Leighton (History), and Graham Jones (Anthropology), and students Juana Becerra (STS) and Malika Flanigan (Economics). HASS academic administrator Liz Friedman served as an ex officio member.

In September 2014, the School held its second annual TOUR de SHASS, a student fair designed to give a lightning tour of the department, program, and section offerings. All SHASS academic programs participated, and nearly 400 students attended (up from 250 in the inaugural year). The fair will be scaled up and continued on an annual basis.

The term “major departure” was retired this year. In spring 2015, the German “major departure” was moved from Course 21 to Global Studies and Languages as a third language option for the 21G majors. Global Studies and Languages now offers three languages under the 21G major: French, Spanish, and German. The Theater Arts “major departure” was moved from Course 21 to 21M, where it will exist as a second track. Music and Theater Arts now offers two major options: 21M-1 Music and 21M-2 Theater Arts. The remaining Course 21 major options (American Studies, Ancient and Medieval Studies, Asian and Asian Diaspora Studies, Latin American and Latino Studies, Russian and Eurasian Studies, and Women’s and Gender Studies) are now referred to as interdisciplinary majors.

### **SHASS Undergraduate Enrollment Statistics: Recent Trends**

Total enrollments in all undergraduate SHASS subjects were 10,118 in AY2015 (10,331 in AY2014, 10,338 in AY2013), and the number of undergraduate SHASS subjects offered was 488 (528 in AY2014, 513 in AY2013). The three fields with the largest overall enrollments were the same as last year: Global Studies and Languages (2,233, down from 2,546 in AY2014), Economics (1,458, down from 1,570 in AY2014), and Music (1,443, up from 1,389 in AY2014). The next highest enrollments were in Political Science (1,001), Writing (868), Literature (776), and Theater Arts (766). For a full breakdown of enrollments in SHASS undergraduate and graduate subjects, refer to Table 1.

### **Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Concentrations**

In AY2015, students completed 1,220 concentrations in SHASS fields (1,099 in AY2014, 1,093 in AY2013). Once again, Global Studies and Languages and Economics led in the number of completed HASS concentrations; in AY2015, 322 students completed concentrations in Global Studies and Languages (266 in AY2014), and 253 students completed concentrations in Economics (283 in AY2014). For a breakdown by languages, see Table 2. The third most popular HASS concentration field was Music, with 125 completed concentrations (111 in AY2014). The next most popular concentrations were Comparative Media Studies (78), Political Science (58), Theater Arts (56), Literature (53), and Philosophy (53).

### **Minors**

SHASS oversees all HASS minors (including those in departments outside of SHASS). The number of HASS minors awarded in AY2015 was 151 (167 in AY2014, 154 in AY2013). The 151 HASS minors awarded to members of the Class of 2015 were in 24 fields. The

three most awarded minors were Economics (35, down from 50 last year), Music (29, same as last year), and Global Studies and Languages (21, up from 18 last year).

### **Undergraduate Majors**

In AY2015, 76 students graduated with majors in SHASS fields (64 in AY2014, 71 in AY2013). Among these students, 31 majors were in Economics, nine were in Comparative Media Studies, six were in Writing, and six were in Music.

### **Honors and Awards Granted to Undergraduate Majors**

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

2015 Burchard Scholars: Itamar Belson (Comparative Media Studies), Leyatt Betre (Political Science), Marina Crowe (Political Science), Casey Crownhart (Literature), Skylar Goldman (Comparative Media Studies), Val Healy (Comparative Media Studies), Joseff Kolman (Political Science), Taylor Rose (Political Science)

2015 Phi Beta Kappa Inductees: Juana Becerra (Science, Technology, and Society), Stephanie Cheng (Economics), Abdulhamid Haidar (Economics), Chen Lian (Economics), Jeffrey Lim (Philosophy), Bruno Tambasco (Comparative Media Studies), Erika Trent (Music), Kathy Yang (Economics), Jessica Yang (Economics)

Suzanne Berger Award for Future Global Leaders: Caroline Shinkle (Economics)

Boit Manuscript Prize: Essay First Prize: Daniel Parker (Music), Poetry Third Prize: Nicholas Brown (Writing)

Robert A. Boit Writing Prize for Poetry First Prize: Laura Zhang (Writing), Second Prize: Nicholas Brown (Writing)

Edward S. Darna Award in Theater Arts: Bruno Tambasco (Comparative Media Studies)

Peter S. Donaldson Prize for Excellence in Literary Studies: Marisa Fryer (Literature)

Louis Kampf Writing Prize in Women's and Gender Studies: Hannah Hailan Pang (Writing)

Kelly-Douglas Essay Prize: Daniel Parker (Music)

Stephen M. Meyer Outstanding Undergraduate Political Science Thesis Award: John Halloran (Political Science)

Jeffrey L. Pressman Award for Summer Internship or Research: Isaac Silberberg (Political Science, Economics)

Undergraduate Economics Association Prizes for Excellence in Writing: First Prize: Francine Loza (Economics), Edward Kim (Economics), Stephanie Cheng (Economics)

Laya and Jerome Wiesner Award in the Arts: Majdolene Khweis (Theater Arts)

## Diversity

As a School we continue to help ensure the vitality of our academic community. We are deeply committed to diversity and inclusion.

A year ago the School started a faculty diversity travel fund to enable faculty members to participate in diversity-related programs at professional conferences or meetings (for example, panels or workshops on diversity in higher education or programs for diverse populations). Due to the lack of request, we will be reviewing this initiative to investigate whether participation can be increased across the School.

In AY2015, the School welcomed three predoctoral fellows, one in Comparative Media Studies/Writing and two in Literature. The SHASS Diversity Predoctoral Fellowship has been well received by our faculty, and next academic year we plan to increase the number of invited fellows.

Diversity manager Karina Arnaez left last fall to pursue a position outside of the Institute. Since then, the position has remained vacant. In the upcoming months, the newly appointed dean will evaluate this position and provide the strategy for diversity and inclusion for the School.

## Honors and Awards

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

Dean Deborah Fitzgerald received the Gladys Baker Award for lifetime achievement from the Agricultural History Society.

Professors Kai von Fintel, Sabine Iatridou, and Donca Steriade were elected Fellows of the Linguistic Society of America, the linguistic field's highest honor.

Jim Poterba, Mitsui Professor in Problems of Contemporary Technology in Economics, was elected to the National Academy of Sciences for "distinguished and continuing achievements in original research."

Fotini Christia, Associate Professor of Political Science, was selected by the Andrew Carnegie Corporation as one of its inaugural fellows.

Eric Goldberg, Associate Professor of History, was awarded a fellowship at the Institute for Advanced Studies at Princeton.

Professor Esther Duflo, director of MIT's Jameel Poverty Action Lab, was awarded Spain's Princess of Asturias Award for Social Sciences for her work to alleviate poverty in developing countries.

Parag Pathak, , received the 2016 Social Choice and Welfare Award, which honors young scholars of excellent accomplishment in the area of social choice theory and welfare economics.

Seth Mnookin, Ford International Career Development Professor in CMS/W, won the 2015 Eric Martin Award for his article “One of a Kind: What Do You Do if Your Child Has a Condition That Is New to Science?” in *The New Yorker* (July 21, 2014).

Junot Díaz, CMS/W Rudge (1948) and Nancy Allen Professor, received the Premio Metropolis Azul Prize, presented to an author from any country or region, for a work of fiction that explores Spanish-language culture or history.

MIT linguist Michele DeGraff’s project video received the Public Choice Award from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Professors Sally Haslanger (Philosophy), Kathleen Thelen (Political Science), and Iván Werning (Economics) were all elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Mark Harvey, Senior Lecturer in Music, was named a “Jazz Hero” by the Jazz Journalist Association.

Heidi Williams, Class of 1957 Career Development Assistant Professor of Economics, was one of five MIT faculty to be selected for a Sloan Research Fellowship.

Lily Tsai, Associate Professor of Political Science, received the 2015 Levitan Award, the highest research honor from MIT SHASS.

MIT economist Robert Solow was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

MIT historian and engineer David A. Mindell was selected by the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics as a 2015 Associate Fellow.

Evan Lieberman, Total Chair on Contemporary Africa and Professor of Political Science, received the David Collier Mid-Career Achievement Award.

MIT Economics Professor James M. Poterba was awarded the Daniel M. Holland Medal from the National Tax Association for his contributions to the study and practice of public finance.

Music Lecturer Elena Ruehr received a Guggenheim Fellowship to write an opera for *Roomful of Teeth*, an eight-voice ensemble.

Professor Adam Berinsky and Assistant Professor Chris Warshaw, both of Political Science, were awarded a 2014 MITEI Seed Fund grant to measure public opinion on an array of state-level energy policies.

Theater Professor Alan Brody's "Operation Epsilon" won four Independent Reviewers of New England Awards, which recognize theaters on every scale on exemplary performances in the previous calendar year.

Bruno Perreau, Associate Professor of French studies in Global Studies and Languages, received a Stanford Humanities Center External Faculty Fellowship for 2014-2015.

Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab co-directors Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo were awarded the Albert O. Hirschman Prize for expanding the frontiers of social science while confronting deep practical and ethical issues.

Professor of History Craig Wilder's *Ebony and Ivy* was named 2013's best nonfiction book by the Black Caucus of the American Library Association.

## **Fundraising**

New gifts and pledges for FY2015 totaled \$32,264,074. Highlights included a substantial endowment gift from an individual donor for the Economics Department's Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab to expand work with governments, and a \$3 million pledge from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation to support the lab's teaching and research activities; a \$5 million gift from the Japanese government to the Center for International Studies to support research activities and a professorship in the field of Japanese politics and diplomacy; a \$400,000 gift to support core needs in performing arts education; and three major gifts from individual donors to support the International Science and Technology Initiatives (MISTI).

## **Faculty Promotions, Administrative Changes, and Retirements**

In AY2015, one faculty member—Professor Elizabeth Garrels (Global Studies and Languages)—retired from MIT, and two resigned: Assistant Professor Paolo Somaini (Economics) and Professor Natasha Schull (Program in Science, Technology, and Society).

It was a successful year for faculty promotions. A total of 14 cases were brought forward for consideration. Of these, three faculty members were promoted to the rank of associate professor with tenure: Clapperton Mavhunga (STS), Ana Mikusheva (Economics), and Natasha Schull (STS). Eight were promoted to the associate professor without tenure: Sasha Costanza-Chock (CMS/W), Lerna Ekmekcioglu (Literature), Christopher Leighton (History), Seth Mnookin (CMS/W), Hiromu Nagahara (History), Alp Simsek (Economics), Juuso Toikka (Economics), and Teppei Yamamoto (Political Science). Three were promoted to full professor: Arnaud Costinot (Economics), Caspar Hare (Linguistics and Philosophy), and T.L. Taylor (CMS/W). These promotions all will become effective July 1, 2015.

As a result of this year's faculty recruitment efforts, six candidates accepted faculty appointments in the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences. Five will be assistant professors, and one will be an associate professor with tenure.

In 2014–2015, two leadership changes occurred within the School. David Pesetsky was named department head of Linguistics and Philosophy, and professor of anthropology Stefan Helmreich was named section head of Anthropology. Wade Roush was the acting director of the Knight Science Journalism Program.

**Deborah K. Fitzgerald**

**Kenan Sahin Dean**

**Professor of the History of Technology**



**Table 1. Enrollment in Subjects Offered by SHASS Fields, 2014–2015**

<b>Field</b>	<b>Undergraduate Subjects</b>	<b>Undergraduate Enrollments</b>	<b>Graduate Subjects</b>	<b>Graduate Enrollments</b>
Anthropology	18	294	5	51
Comparative Media Studies	28	472	30	405
Economics	25	1458	50	1204
Global Studies and Languages	135	2233	43	774
History	38	511	2	20
Linguistics	13	261	27	280
Literature	62	776		
Music	63	1443	5	40
Philosophy	20	599	10	55
Political Science	47	1001	38	435
Science, Technology, and Society	18	438	15	251
Theater Arts	30	766	5	56
Women’s and Gender Studies	21	352	6	12
Writing	43	868	8	173
<b>Total (Master Subjects Only)</b>	<b>488</b>	<b>10118</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>1855</b>

## Notes:

- 1) 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 2014, IAP 2015, and Spring 2015 semesters.
- 2) In the case of joint and meets with subject clusters, enrollment numbers are calculated by the total number of students in the class, regardless of which subject number they signed up under. Totals are calculated by master subjects and will not match the totals for each column (which count jointly listed subjects in each of the fields involved).
- 3) In the few cases where subjects have two “meets with” numbers in the same field (such as the “Globalization” co-requisite language subjects in GSL), 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.
- 4) The numbers shown are for undergraduate and graduate subjects excluding only subjects which are scheduled on an individual basis, such as theses and UROPs.

**Table 2. Concentrations in the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences as of July 2015**

<b>SHASS Concentration Field</b>	<b>All Active Concentrations</b>	<b>Completed Concentrations</b>
Ancient and Medieval Studies	23	12
Anthropology	26	15
Comparative Media Studies	119	78
Development Economics	2	0
Economics	427	253
Ethics	6	4
Global Studies and Languages*	535	322
History	58	36
Linguistics	48	29
Literature	96	53
Music	228	125
None	2	2
Philosophy	96	53
Political Science	87	58
Regional Studies		
African and African Diaspora Studies	0	0
American Studies	4	3
Asian and Asian Diaspora Studies	32	25
Latin American and Latino Studies	9	4
Middle Eastern Studies	1	1
Russian and Eurasian Studies	7	3
Religious Studies	6	5
Science, Technology and Society	51	27
Special Concentration	0	0
Theater Arts	111	56
Women's and Gender Studies	43	18
Writing	92	38
<b>Total</b>	<b>2109</b>	<b>1220</b>
<b>*Global Studies and Languages Concentrations</b>	<b>All Active Concentrations</b>	<b>Completed Concentrations</b>
Chinese	101	61
English Language Studies	17	13
French	96	52
German	53	25
Japanese	72	47
Other Languages	13	8
Portuguese	22	13
Spanish	152	97
Studies in International Literatures and Cultures	4	3
Theory of Languages	5	3
<b>Global Studies and Languages Total</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>322</b>

**Table 3. All Enrolled SHASS Undergraduate Majors by Academic Year**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Economics</b>	<b>Humanities</b>	<b>Linguistics &amp; Philosophy</b>	<b>Political Science</b>	<b>Total</b>
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)
2013–2014	91 (58)	59 (31)	24 (17)	15 (10)	189 (116)
2014–2015	73 (55)	74 (28)	24 (12)	14 (6)	185 (101)

Note: Figures in parenthesis 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 parenthesis were calculated in July, after Commencement, and include non-primary degrees, second majors, and any majors which were declared between October and July

\*Includes students who graduated in September 2014, February 2015, and June 2015

**Table 4. All Enrolled SHASS Graduate Students over the past Decade**

Year	Economics	HASTS*	Linguistics & Philosophy	Political Science	CMS	Science Writing	Total
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
2013–2014	125	35	73	65	18	8	324
2014–2015	129	31	76	65	19	8	328

\*History, Anthropology, and Science, Technology, and Society (HASTS).

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

**Table 5. HASS Minors as of July 2015**

<b>Field</b>	<b>All Active Minors*</b>	<b>Minors Awarded*</b>
African and African Diaspora Studies	0	0
Ancient and Medieval Studies	5	3
Anthropology	4	2
Applied International Studies	24	8
Art, Culture and Technology	3	2
Asian and Asian Diaspora Studies	3	1
Chinese	7	2
Comparative Media Studies	6	5
Economics	58	35
French	17	7
German	7	2
History	5	1
History of Art and Architecture`	0	0
International Development	1	1
Japanese	20	6
Latin American and Latino Studies	1	0
Linguistics	1	0
Literature	18	8
Middle Eastern Studies	1	0
Music	54	29
Philosophy	5	2
Political Science	21	13
Public Policy	10	4
Russian and Eurasian Studies	1	0
Science, Technology, and Society	2	2
Spanish	8	4
Theater Arts	14	8
Urban Studies	1	1
Women's and Gender Studies	1	1
Writing	14	4
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>151</b>

\*Includes September 2014, February 2015, and June 2015 graduates.