

## School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences

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

- Offers 19 undergraduate major programs and 30 undergraduate minor programs
- 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
- Supports five doctoral programs, with more than 1,500 total enrollments, in Economics; Linguistics; Philosophy; Political Science; and History, Anthropology, and Science, Technology, and Society—all ranking within the top 10 such programs internationally
- Provides 488 subjects towards the undergraduate Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (HASS) requirement, an eight-class portion of the General Institute Requirement
- Operates the MIT International Science and Technology Initiatives Program, which sends more than 750 students on international internships each year, making this the largest international program for students at MIT

The past year saw a leadership transition at SHASS. Dean Melissa Nobles assumed the deanship, replacing Deborah Fitzgerald. Associate Dean Agustín Rayo replaced Kai von Fintel. Andrea Wirth came on board as the HASS academic administrator, replacing Liz Friedman.

### Undergraduate Education

The SHASS faculty members 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 a minimum of 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. Being able to study under faculty members of national rank in the fields of the 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 the School's instructors and the educational innovations that come 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. Under this system, undergraduates are required to take three HASS distribution subjects, one from each of the three categories of the arts, humanities, and social sciences. The committee dealt with individual student petitions and approved new subjects for HASS credit.

The SHASS Education Advisory Committee has been charged with considering the full range of issues related to undergraduate education in the School. This past year, the committee was chaired by Professor David Singer (Political Science). The other committee members were Professor Christopher Leighton (History), Professor Janet Sonenberg (Music and Theater Arts), and student Leyatt Betre (Political Science). HASS academic administrator Andrea Wirth served as an ex officio member.

In September 2015, the School held its third 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.

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

Total enrollments in all undergraduate SHASS subjects were 10,096 in AY2016 (compared with 10,118 in AY2015 and 10,331 in AY2014). The number of undergraduate SHASS subjects offered held steady at 488 (488 in AY2015, 528 in AY2014). The three fields with the largest overall enrollments were the same as last year: Global Studies and Languages (2,283, up from 2,233 in AY2015), Economics (1,587, up from 1,458 in AY2015), and Music (1,357, down from 1,443 in AY2015). The next highest enrollments were in Political Science (931), Writing (851), Literature (821), and Theater Arts (783). A full breakdown of enrollments in SHASS undergraduate and graduate subjects appears in Table 1.

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

In AY2016, students completed 1,259 concentrations in SHASS fields (1,220 in AY2015, 1,099 in AY2014). Once again, Global Studies and Languages and Economics led in the number of completed HASS concentrations; in AY2016, 322 students completed concentrations in Global Studies and Languages (the same number as in AY2015), and 268 students completed concentrations in Economics (253 in AY2015). The third most popular HASS concentration field was Music, with 135 completed concentrations (125 in AY2015). The next most popular concentrations were Philosophy (69), Theater Arts (61), Comparative Media Studies (56), Literature (51), and Writing (48). A breakdown by languages appears in Table 2.

### **Minors**

SHASS oversees all HASS minors, including those in departments outside SHASS. The number of HASS minors awarded in AY2016 was 158 (151 in AY2015, 167 in AY2014). The 158 HASS minors awarded to members of the Class of 2016 were in 30 fields. The three most frequently awarded minors were Economics (45, up from 35 last year), Music

(23, down from 29 last year), and Global Studies and Languages (25, up from 21 last year). A breakdown by field appears in Table 3.

### **Undergraduate Majors**

In AY2016, there were a total of 182 active undergraduate majors in SHASS fields, including both primary and secondary degrees (185 in AY2015, 189 in AY2014). Of these, 58 students were awarded majors in SHASS fields (76 in AY2015, 64 in AY2014). The most awarded majors were in Economics (19), Comparative Media Studies (six), Humanities and Engineering (six), Music (five), and Political Science (five). A complete breakdown by field appears in Table 4.

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

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

2016 Burchard Scholars: Mary Clare Beytagh (Literature), Thomas Cowan (Science, Technology, and Society), Aaron Hammond (Literature), Jing Li (Economics), Everett Malone (Comparative Media Studies; Literature), Nicholas Matthews (Literature), Katherine Nazemi (Political Science), Alyssa Smith (Humanities and Engineering), Stephen Tang (Political Science), and Olivia Zhou (Economics)

2016 Phi Beta Kappa Inductees: Gabriel Lesnick (Music), Abra Shen (Theater Arts), Max Timmons (Economics), Anthony Yu (Economics)

Boit Manuscript Prize for Fiction: First Prize, Melanie Abrams (Writing); Honorable Mention, Joseph Schuman (Political Science)

Robert A. Boit Writing Prize for Poetry: Second Prize, Phoebe Cai (Economics)

Chamber Music Performance Awards: Gabriel Lesnick (Music), Daniel Parker (Music)

Edward S. Darna Award in Theater Arts: Jacob Gunter (Humanities and Engineering)

Isabelle de Courtivron Writing Prize, Second Prize: Aneesh Anand (Economics)

Peter S. Donaldson Prize for Excellence in Literary Studies: Anna Walsh (Literature)

Enterprise Poets Prize in Imagining a Future: Elise Bickford (Philosophy)

Frederick Gardiner Fassett, Jr. Award for FSILG Students of the Year: Taylor Rose (Political Science)

Albert G. Hill Prize for Contributions to Quality of Life for Minorities: Ronald Heisser (Philosophy)

Kelly-Douglas Essay Prize: Gabriel Lesnick (Music)

Kelly-Douglas Summer Travel Fellows: Neerja Aggarwal (Theater Arts), Casey Crownhart (Literature), Stephen Holcomb (History), Cara Lai (Literature), Jing Li (Economics), Nicholas Matthews (Literature), Cathleen Nalezty (Humanities and Engineering), Abra Shen (Theater Arts), Parker Zhou (Economics)

The Lowell Lindgren Prize for Musical Scholarship: Adam Caplan-Bricker (Music)

Stephen M. Meyer Outstanding Undergraduate Political Science Thesis Award: Joseph Schuman (Political Science)

Richard and Jody Nordlof Awards for MIT Wind Ensemble: Joseff Kolman (Political Science)

John Oliver Choral Award: Tiffany Wong (Music)

Louis Sudler Prize in the Arts: Daniel Parker (Music)

Gregory Tucker Memorial Prize for Excellence in Music: Gabriel Lesnick (Music)

Undergraduate Economics Association Prize for Excellence in Writing: First Prize Penghui Zhou (Economics), Second Prize Jiacheng Feng (Economics), Third Prize Anthony Yu (Economics)

Vera List Prize for Visual Arts: Melanie Abrams (Writing)

## Graduate Education

In AY2016, 337 students were active majors in graduate SHASS fields; 62 students were awarded graduate majors in SHASS fields. Among these students, 26 were awarded the PhD in Economics, five in Linguistics, five in Political Science, three in Philosophy, and three in History, Anthropology, and Science, Technology and Society. Seven students were awarded the MS degree in Science Writing and five were awarded the MS degree in Comparative Media Studies. A complete breakdown by field appears in Table 5.

## Diversity Efforts

The School continues to make diversity a priority, and has charged Agustín Rayo with overseeing its diversity efforts.

The SHASS Faculty Diversity Committee (FDC), chaired by Dean Rayo, works with search committees to ensure that candidates from underrepresented minority groups are afforded as many opportunities as possible throughout the search process. As part of this effort, the School has established a set of faculty search guidelines to which all faculty search committees are asked to adhere. The guidelines are designed to encourage search committees to implement practices that empirical research has found to be effective in promoting diversity. They are also designed to ensure frequent interaction between search committees and the FDC.

A diversity travel fund exists for faculty members attending diversity-related activities or conferences. Faculty who use this fund are asked to submit a brief report on ideas that might further the School's diversity efforts.

Building on the diversity pre-doctoral fellowship in Political Science, SHASS now offers diversity pre-doctoral fellowships in every discipline within the School. This program recruits promising PhD students who are in the final stage of their dissertations and offers them a year of support to help them complete their dissertations. The support includes a modest stipend, office space, and a faculty mentor. The program's goal is

to identify promising PhD students who are members of underrepresented minority groups and to build lasting ties with them. The program is also intended to send a message that MIT is a welcoming place for scholars from underrepresented groups. Thanks to generous support from the Provost's Office, the fellowship program has expanded significantly. SHASS has gone from hosting three fellows within two units in AY2015 to hosting eight fellows within eight different units in AY2016.

SHASS instructors teach a large number of subjects that focus on issues related to diversity, including subjects on race and ethnicity, on cultures outside the United States, on gender and sexuality, and on globalization or transnationalism. In an effort to highlight these subjects, SHASS maintains a webpage with up-to-date listings of the School's more than 140 diversity-related offerings.

### **Honors and Awards**

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

Bengt Holmström, Paul A. Samuelson Professor of Economics, received the 2016 Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel.

Comparative Media Studies/Writing Professor Thomas Levenson received the 2016 Levitan Prize in the Humanities.

Bruno Perreau, Cynthia L. Reed Professor of French Studies, has been appointed to the Order of the French Academic Palms.

Barry Posen, Ford International Professor of Political Science, received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Studies Association and was also named to the Kissinger Chair at the Library of Congress.

Ellen Harris, Class of 1949 Professor Emeritus of Music and Theater Arts, was elected to the American Philosophical Society.

Department Head Andrea Campbell, Arthur and Ruth Sloan Professor of Political Science, was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Suzanne Berger, Raphael Dorman–Helen Starbuck Professor of Political Science, received the Powell Mentoring Award from the Comparative Politics Section of the American Political Science Association.

Patricia Tang, associate professor of Music, was named a MacVicar Faculty Fellow.

Professor of Political Science Nazli Choucri received the 2016 Myron Weiner Distinguished Scholar Award from the International Studies Association.

Taylor Fravel, associate professor of Political Science and member of the Security Studies Program, was awarded a Carnegie fellowship.

Junot Díaz, Rudge (1948) and Nancy Allen Professor of Writing, received the Hispanic Heritage Award for Literature.

Comparative Media Studies/Writing Professor Helen Elaine Lee received an MIT 2016 Faculty Ambassador Award.

Assistant Professor of Political Science Ariel White won the Heinz I. Eulau Award for the best paper published in the *American Political Science Review*.

Assistant Professor of Political Science Regina Bateson was the recipient of a 2016 Outstanding Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program Faculty Mentor Award.

Professor of the Practice of the Humanities Alan Lightman received the 2016 St. Botolph Club Distinguished Artist Award.

Evan Ziporyn, head of Music and Theater Arts and Kenan Sahin Distinguished Professor, was named one of the most intriguing musicians of 2016 by *The Daily Beast*.

Comparative Media Studies/Writing Professor Thomas Levenson's book, *The Hunt for Vulcan*, was a finalist for the Royal Society Science Book Prize.

## Fundraising

New gifts and pledges for FY2016 totaled \$32,090,254. Highlights included two grants totaling \$9 million from the Arnold Foundation; they will be used to support research in health care delivery and cost containment and to fund research on innovative efforts at the state and local levels that are focused on implementing effective social programs. The total also includes \$4 million in pledged funding from individual donors for fellowships in Economics, a \$1 million gift annuity for graduate student support in Philosophy, a \$500,000 gift to establish a fund for postdoctoral scholars in Philosophy, and a \$500,000 gift to establish a fund in the School for priority needs as determined by the dean.

## Faculty Promotions, Administrative Changes, and Retirements

In AY2016, three faculty members—Professor Alan Brody (Music and Theater Arts), Professor Jerry Hausman (Economics), and Professor Robert Stalnaker (Linguistics and Philosophy)—retired from MIT, and one resigned: Assistant Professor Lucas Stanczyk (Political Science).

It was a successful year for faculty promotions. A total of 16 cases were brought forward for consideration. Of these, three faculty members were promoted to the rank of associate professor with tenure: Vivek Bald (Comparative Media Studies/Writing), Manduhai Buyandelger (Anthropology), and Heidi Williams (Economics). Seven were promoted to the rank of associate professor without tenure: Sana Aiyar (History), Stephanie Frampton (Literature), Daniel Hidalgo (Political Science), Emily Pollock (Music and Theater Arts), Lucas Stanczyk (Political Science), Christopher Warshaw (Political Science), and Alexander Wolitzky (Economics). Four were promoted to full professor: Adam Albright (Linguistics and Philosophy), Nick Montfort (Comparative

Media Studies/Writing), Christine Walley (Anthropology), and Roger White (Linguistics and Philosophy). These promotions will become effective July 1, 2016.

As a result of this year's faculty recruitment efforts, 12 candidates accepted faculty appointments in SHASS. Seven will be assistant professors, one will be an associate professor without tenure, one will be an associate professor with tenure, and three will be full professors.

In 2015–2016, three leadership changes occurred within the School. At the end of the year, Whitney Newey stepped down as department head of Economics; David Kaiser stepped down as department head of Science, Technology, and Society; and Peter Child stepped down as section head of Music and Theater Arts.

**Melissa Nobles**

**Kenan Sahin Dean**

**Professor of Political Science**



**Table 1. Enrollment in Subjects Offered by SHASS Fields, 2015–2016**

Field	Undergraduate Subjects	Undergraduate Enrollments	Graduate Subjects	Graduate Enrollments
Anthropology	18	335	5	43
Comparative Media Studies	37	539	39	437
Economics	28	1,587	47	1,010
Global Studies and Languages	145	2,283	42	696
History	35	494	4	26
Linguistics	13	268	25	245
Literature	64	821		
Music	62	1,357	5	42
Philosophy	22	660	11	72
Political Science	38	931	32	368
Science, Technology, and Society	21	446	11	166
Theater Arts	26	783	5	48
Women’s and Gender Studies	24	344	2	4
Writing	49	851	9	176
Total (Master Subjects Only)	488	10,096	126	1,581

## Notes:

1) These final 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 2015, IAP 2016, and Spring 2016 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 undergraduate “meets with” numbers in the same field and category (such as the undergraduate “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 June 2016**

<b>SHASS Concentration Field</b>	<b>All Active Concentrations</b>	<b>Completed Concentrations</b>
Ancient and Medieval Studies	23	18
Anthropology	36	17
Comparative Media Studies	110	56
Development Economics	2	1
Economics	441	268
Ethics	4	2
Global Studies and Languages*	519	322
History	55	35
Legal Studies	0	0
Linguistics	55	37
Literature	87	51
Music	233	135
Philosophy	114	69
Political Science	89	42
Regional Studies		
African and African Diaspora Studies	0	0
American Studies	3	3
Asian and Asian Diaspora Studies	25	15
Latin American and Latino Studies	7	6
Middle Eastern Studies	3	0
Russian and Eurasian Studies	12	7
Religious Studies	2	1
Science, Technology and Society	58	37
Special Concentration	0	0
Theater Arts	124	61
Women's and Gender Studies	44	28
Writing	78	48
<b>Total</b>	<b>2124</b>	<b>1259</b>

<b>*Global Studies and Languages Concentrations</b>	<b>All Active Concentrations</b>	<b>Completed Concentrations</b>
Chinese	102	60
English Language Studies	11	6
French	93	61
German	50	27
Japanese	72	52
Other Languages	18	6
Portuguese	15	13
Spanish	147	89
Studies in International Literatures and Cultures	7	5
Theory of Languages	4	3
<b>Global Studies and Languages Total</b>	<b>519</b>	<b>322</b>

**Table 3. HASS Minors as of June 2016**

<b>Field</b>	<b>All Active Minors*</b>	<b>Minors Awarded*</b>
African and African Diaspora Studies	0	0
Ancient and Medieval Studies	8	6
Anthropology	4	0
Applied International Studies	26	11
Art, Culture and Technology	1	1
Asian and Asian Diaspora Studies	0	0
Chinese	11	5
Comparative Media Studies	4	2
Economics	68	45
French	14	6
German	13	2
History	11	3
History of Art and Architecture	0	0
International Development	0	0
Japanese	13	5
Latin American and Latino Studies	1	1
Linguistics	6	4
Literature	11	8
Middle Eastern Studies	0	0
Music	47	23
Philosophy	8	4
Political Science	14	5
Public Policy	9	5
Russian and Eurasian Studies	1	0
Science, Technology, and Society	1	0
Spanish	12	7
Theater Arts	13	4
Urban Studies	3	2
Women's and Gender Studies	4	2
Writing	11	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>158</b>

\*Includes September 2015, February 2016, and June 2016 graduates.

**Table 4. 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>
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)
2015-2016	63 (30)	79 (34)	23 (10)	17 (7)	182 (81)

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.

**Table 5. All Enrolled SHASS Graduate Majors by Academic Year**

Year	Economics	HASTS*	Linguistics & Philosophy	Political Science	CMS	Science Writing	Total
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
2015–2016	130	36	81	65	18	7	337

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

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