

School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences

Several developments in the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (SHASS) during 2003–2004 merit mention.

SHASS extended its leadership role in developing the Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (HASS) Communication Intensive (CI) component of the Communication Requirement (CR), MIT's newest addition to the General Institute Requirements (GIR) for undergraduates. The completion of the third year of the HASS-CI component proved to be reasonably smooth, and faculty are generally positive about its prospects.

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 SHASS' newest graduate program sang its praises. The SM degree program in science writing, which is under 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 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 the School, has developed a fascinating pilot online science magazine called *Signal*, for which MIT is now seeking external support.

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 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 pursue a major or minor in each department and section, in addition to several interdisciplinary majors and minors. Seventy-eight 2003-2004 graduates completed undergraduate degrees in the School.

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 take this educational mission seriously, which is reflected in the high quality teaching evaluations received by our instructors and the continuing educational innovation that emanates from the various faculties.

Because all MIT undergraduates must take eight HASS subjects, including three HASS-Distribution (HASS-D) subjects, the School devotes considerable resources to overseeing the HASS Requirement, particularly the subjects approved as HASS-D. The recent addition to the CR has added to this oversight task, especially since the Subcommittee on the Communication Requirement has delegated to the School the responsibility for reviewing classes that meet the CI-H portion of the CR. The HASS Overview Committee (HOC) bears the direct responsibility for reviewing subjects that are proposed to fulfill the HASS-D and Communication Intensive in the Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (CI-H) requirements. This past year, the HOC was chaired by associate dean Charles Stewart III; its other members were professors Edward Hall (Department of Linguistics and Philosophy), Shankar Raman (Department of Literature), Meg Jacobs (Department of History), Martin Rein (Department of Urban Studies and Planning), and Janet Sonenberg (Department of Music and Theater Arts), and Ms. Rose Grabowski ('05, Course 15). Dr. Bette Davis, director of the HASS Education Office, served *ex officio*. The HOC reviewed 23 proposals for HASS-D status (3 new subjects and 20 renewals) and 11 for CI-H status. Seventy-nine subjects have been approved for HASS-D status and 100 subjects have now been approved as CI-H.

This past year saw the establishment of the Task Force on the Undergraduate Educational Commons, which is charged with considering a wide variety of undergraduate educational issues throughout the Institute. Charles Stewart III, professor of political science and associate dean of the School, is one of the associate chairs of the task force. Professors Diana Henderson (Department of Literature) and David Mindell (Program in Science, Technology, and Society) also serve on the task force. It is too early to speculate about the directions the task force will take in considering the HASS' role 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 CR, and sharpening the focus on studying the intersections of science and technology with the broader society.

Affirmative Action

The total number of women faculty in SHASS steadily increased for several years—from 35 in AY1993 to a peak of 49 in AY2000—and then steadily decreased through AY2003 to 41. Retirements, departures, and unsuccessful bids for promotion contributed to this decrease. In AY2004, we had 42 women, and in AY2005 we will have 44 women faculty. We are hopeful that the recent upward trend will continue. Of the 146 faculty members

in SHASS in AY04, 29 percent were women, and of these, 32 are tenured (30 percent of the tenured faculty). While we successfully recruited four new women (including two African Americans) to the faculty for next year (one tenured/three untenured), we also lost two women faculty (one senior woman retired and one junior woman was not awarded tenure) during AY2004.

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 the School in AY2004 was 17, and we have successfully recruited two African American women as assistant professors for AY2005. Perhaps more importantly, of the five SHASS faculty approved for tenure this year (effective AY2005), two were African-American (one woman and one man).

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 Equal Opportunity Committee (EOC) and dean asked the departments, sections, and programs within SHASS to identify 5 to 10 leading senior (or tenurable at MIT) women and 5 to 10 leading senior (or tenurable at MIT) minorities in each discipline/field; we spent AY2004 trying to recruit from these lists. Unfortunately, our efforts have yet to produce positive results, but the EOC and dean intend to reinforce their commitment by encouraging each academic unit to step up its efforts to recruit qualified women and minorities to MIT.

The School remains committed to increasing minority representation among administrative staff as well as faculty. We currently have three minorities (one Hispanic and two Asian Americans) among the 38 administrative staff members (Rank List III) in the School (approximately 8 percent), but hope to further diversify our administrative staff by working closely with the departments and programs in the School and with the Office of Human Resources.

Honors and Awards

The faculty within the School garnered an array of honors and awards this year. The most notable among them were the following: 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 of linguistics Noam Chomsky was elected 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 of economics Peter Diamond received this year's Paul A. Samuelson Award from TIAA-CREF for outstanding scholarly writing on lifelong financial security for his Munich Lectures entitled *Taxation, Incomplete Markets and Social Security* (MIT Press, 2002). 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 the 2004 Outstanding Contributions to the Profession Award. 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 by the International History and Politics Section of the American Political Science Association. Professor Samuels's book was also awarded the 2004 Marraro Prize from 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 Lieberman Fellowship.

Fundraising

New gifts and pledges for FY2004 totaled \$5,372,306. Including the \$75 million designated to this School from the Kenan Sahin campaign gift to MIT, the campaign total for SHASS (July 1, 1997 through June 30, 2004) is \$144,148,023.

The top School fundraising priorities continue to be increased support for graduate fellowships (Economics, Political Science, Linguistics and Philosophy, and the Program in Science, Technology and Society) and professorships at all levels. Specific priorities include the Graduate Program in Science Writing, the Comparative Media Studies Program, the Center for International Studies (including major initiatives within the center, such as the MIT International Science and Technology Initiative programs), the Shakespeare Electronic Archive, linguistics (endangered languages program), and Chinese language and culture.

Faculty Promotions, Administrative Changes, and Retirements

AY2004 has seen 3 retirements, 3 resignations and 13 new faculty appointments within the School. Among the faculty retirements were Jane Berkowitz Carlton and Dennis William Carlton professor of economics Franklin M. Fisher, professor of history Bruce Mazlish, and professor of philosophy Judith Jarvis Thomson. Among the resignations were two associate professors (both non-tenured), and one full professor. A total of five faculty members in the School were promoted to tenure this year, effective July 1, 2004: Thomas DeFrantz of Music and Theater Arts, Daniel Fox and Norvin Richards of the

Department of Linguistics and Philosophy, Helen Elaine Lee of Writing and Humanistic Studies, and Edward Steinfeld of the Department of Political Science.

The School was successful in recruiting a total of 12 new members to the faculty for AY2005, and one new member (David Jones), who will join the Program in Science, Technology and Society as an assistant professor in AY2006. Of the 12, two will join the faculty as full professors (Richard Holton and Rae Langton) in the Department of Linguistics and Philosophy; and 10 will join as assistant professors in Anthropology, Economics, History, Linguistics and Philosophy, Political Science, and Writing and Humanistic Studies.

Philip S. Khoury
Kenan Sahin Dean
Professor of History

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