

## **Dean, School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences**

The past year has been a time of great ferment in the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (SHASS). In July 2006 long-time dean Philip S. Khoury stepped down to become associate provost, and Professor Deborah K. Fitzgerald became interim dean. Effective January 1, 2007, Fitzgerald was appointed dean.

SHASS continued to work on developing new classes for the anticipated overhaul of the General Institute Requirements. With help from d'Arbeloff Fund for Excellence in Education, about a dozen SHASS faculty members began working on collaborative teaching initiatives. To date, three new team-taught classes are operating, and several more will be tested this coming year. We hope to locate funding to support more team-taught classes in the future.

For the first time in five years, the leadership of the School went on a two-night retreat to Cape Cod to discuss where the School is now and where it should be going. This was an extremely valuable exercise that provided both the new dean and the faculty with a much firmer sense of the challenges and opportunities that exist in the School.

The School also hosted the Association of American Universities' annual meeting of arts and sciences deans in April.

The School continues to devote considerable energy to fundraising, recruiting a more diverse faculty, retaining our current faculty, and finding ways to expand support for our graduate students.

### **Undergraduate Education**

All MIT undergraduates must complete the Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (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 do so by pursuing a major or minor in any department or section, or by undertaking any of several interdisciplinary majors and minors. Among 2006–2007 graduates, 79 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 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 are admitted. The School's faculty takes this educational mission seriously, a fact reflected in the high-quality teaching evaluations received by our instructors and in 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 licensed as HASS-D. The recent addition of the Communication Requirement has expanded this oversight task, especially since the Subcommittee on the Communication Requirement has assigned the School the responsibility of reviewing classes that meet the Communication Intensive (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, the HOC was chaired by associate professor Mary Fuller (Literature). Other members were associate professors Christopher Capozzola (History), Thomas DeFrantz (Music and Theater Arts), Stefan Helmreich (Anthropology), and David Kaiser (Science, Technology, and Society); assistant professor Caspar Hare (Linguistics and Philosophy); and Caroline Rubin ('08, Courses 9 and 21A). 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.

### **Affirmative Action**

After steadily increasing for several years, the number of women faculty in SHASS peaked at 49 in AY2000, then steadily decreased through AY2003 to a total of 41. Retirements, departures, and unsuccessful promotions contributed to this decrease. However, we seem to have turned the corner over the past three years, creeping back up to 44 in AY2005, 45 in AY2006, and reaching a total of 48 women faculty in AY2007. Effective July 1, 2007 (AY2008), we will return to our previous high of 49 women faculty members, and we remain hopeful that this upward trend will continue. With a faculty of 155 in AY2007, women represent 31 percent of the total, and 34 of these women faculty members are tenured (representing 30 percent of the tenured faculty). While we successfully recruited three untenured new women this year, including an Asian American woman, only two of them will join our faculty in AY2008, while the third will join us in AY2009. In addition, yet another (untenured) woman, recruited in AY2006, will join our faculty in AY2008. Unfortunately, we lost two junior women at the end of this year, including an Asian American woman, leaving us with a net increase of only one woman for AY2008.

The School has had moderate success in its efforts to recruit minority faculty, although we continually strive to further diversify the faculty. There were 24 minority faculty members in the School in AY2007, and although we have successfully recruited two more, only one (an untenured Asian American man in Economics) will join us in AY2008. Unfortunately, since we also lost an Asian American woman at the end of this year, the number of minority faculty members in SHASS will remain at 24 for AY2008. Of the seven SHASS faculty members approved for tenure this year (effective AY2008), one is an Hispanic 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 dean and the SHASS Equal Opportunity Committee (EOC) asked the departments within SHASS to identify 5 to 10 leading senior (or tenurable at MIT) women and 5 to 10 leading senior (or tenurable at MIT) minority group members in each discipline/field, and we have spent the last four years (AY2004–AY2007) trying to recruit from these lists. These efforts led to the hire of a senior woman

philosopher in the Department of Linguistics and Philosophy in AY2005 and the recruitment of a junior philosopher (a Mexican national), who joined the department in AY2006. Buoyed by the success of Linguistics and Philosophy's recruitment efforts, the dean and EOC intend to reinforce our commitment by encouraging the other academic units to follow that department's lead in recruiting qualified women and minority group members.

The School also remains committed to increasing the minority representation within the administrative staff, and this year we hired an African American man as assistant dean for finance and administration. We currently have five minorities (two African Americans, one Hispanic American [born in Puerto Rico], and two Asian Americans) among the 40 members of the SHASS administrative staff (approximately 13 percent). We will continue our efforts 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**

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

Assistant professor Sandy Alexandre was named the Class of 1948 professor of literature.

Raphael Dorman and Helen Starbuck professor of political science Suzanne Berger was named the Class of 1960 fellow.

Assistant professor of writing and new media Beth Coleman received the 2006–2007 American Association of University Women Emerging Scholar Award.

Associate professor of Japanese cultural studies Ian Condry was named the Mitsui professor of Japanese. Professor Condry was also selected for a National Science Foundation grant in cultural anthropology.

Professor Glenn Ellison was selected as the inaugural holder of the Gregory K. Palm professorship in economics.

Professor of anthropology and science and technology Michael Fischer was named the Andrew W. Mellon professor of humanities.

Deborah Fitzgerald was named the Kenan Sahin dean of the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences.

Professor of second language acquisition Suzanne Flynn received the Beom Jeong Award from the graduate school at Dankook University in Seoul, Korea, for her research contributions to linguistics, language learning, and Korea.

Professor of economics and associate department head Jonathan Gruber was appointed a Margaret MacVicar Faculty Fellow. Professor Gruber also received the American Society of Health Economists inaugural medal for the best health economist in the nation aged 40 and under.

Associate professor of history Meg Jacobs was awarded the 2007 Levitan Prize in the Humanities.

Peter de Florez professor of humanities and director of comparative media studies Henry Jenkins's book, *Convergence Culture: Where Old and New Media Collide*, was awarded the 2007 Katherine Singer Kovacs Book Award.

Elizabeth and James Killian professor of economics and management Paul Joskow was awarded MIT's 2006 Gordon Y Billard Award.

Associate professor of the history of science David Kaiser was awarded MIT's 2006 Harold E. Edgerton Faculty Achievement Award.

William R. Kenan Jr. professor of history Pauline Maier was selected for a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Assistant professor of music Keeril Makan was awarded the 2006–2007 American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP) award.

Associate professor Jay Scheib was named the Class of 1958 professor of theater arts.

Leverett Howell and William King Cutten professor of the history of technology Merritt Roe Smith received MIT's Arthur Smith Award for outstanding contributions to students and student life.

Professor Donca Steriade was named the Class of 1941 professor of linguistics.

MacVicar Faculty Fellow and professor of literature David Thorburn was awarded a senior Fulbright fellowship.

Kenan Sahin distinguished professor of music Evan Ziporyn was awarded the 2006 Gregory Kepes Fellowship Prize by the Council for the Arts at MIT.

## **Fundraising**

New gifts and pledges for FY2007 totaled \$16.9 million. Highlights included new full and career development professorships in the Department of Economics, \$1.4 million pledged in support of two joint HyperStudio projects with the Center for International Studies and the Shakespeare Archive, and a new MacArthur Foundation grant commitment to the Comparative Media Studies program for new media literacies (\$1.8 million).

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

In AY2007, one retirement, seven resignations, and seven new faculty hires occurred within the School. We lost Leon and Anne Goldberg professor Joshua Cohen, who retired from MIT. One of the resignations was at the full professor level (Kenan Sahin distinguished professor of linguistics Alec Marantz), two were associate professors (one with tenure and one without) and four were assistant professors. Seven faculty members in the School were promoted to tenure this year, effective July 1, 2007: George Marios Angeletos, Amy Finkelstein, Ivan Werning, and Muhamet Yildiz of the Department of Economics; Adam Berinsky of the Department of Political Science; David Kaiser of the Program in Science, Technology, and Society; and Thomas Levenson of the Program in Writing and Humanistic Studies.

The School was successful in recruiting a total of seven new members (all nontenured) to the faculty for AY2008, with an additional two faculty members (also nontenured) scheduled to join us in AY2009. Of the seven new faculty members for AY2008, one will join as an associate professor without tenure (Edward Flemming in the Department of Linguistics and Philosophy), and six will join as assistant professors (in Anthropology; Economics; Linguistics and Philosophy; Literature; Science, Technology, and Society; and Writing and Humanistic Studies).

In addition to Philip Khoury stepping down and Deborah Fitzgerald beginning her tenure as Kenan Sahin dean of the School, long-time assistant dean for finance and administration Douglas Pfeiffer stepped down to become assistant provost for administration in the Provost's Office. We hired Marc B. Jones, formerly assistant dean of operations in the School of Science, to replace him.

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

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