

Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Education Office

Academic year 2006–2007 was another busy year in the HASS Education Office. It began in summer 2006 with our consolidating our operations into half the space we previously occupied and renovating the office. We are now located at 14N-410 instead of 14N-408. As usual, we provided administrative and clerical support for the HASS Overview Committee (HOC); the director of the HASS Education Office, Dr. Bette Davis, served as ex officio member of the HOC, and administrative assistant Patricia Fernandes took the minutes. HOC, chaired by Professor Mary Fuller, began a review of HASS-D and CI-H subjects by department; it will continue this work in the fall. In addition to working with this committee, the office has continued its normal work, which includes producing the HASS Guide each term; handling HASS concentrations, minors, and the Harvard Cross-Registration Program; and compiling various statistics for the dean. We also maintained five databases—the CI-H, HASS Minor, Course 21 Majors, Harvard Cross-Registration, and Mailing List databases.

The office has been working with Information Services and Technology on plans to switch the HASS-D Lottery from PowerBuilder to a web-based application, as well as to convert our five databases to FileMaker Pro 8.5. The FileMaker Pro conversion will be completed this summer; the HASS-D Lottery update should happen during the coming year.

Dr. Davis has continued to be involved with the undergraduate exchange component of the Cambridge-MIT Exchange, helping to facilitate MIT students' receiving HASS credit for coursework done at the University of Cambridge. As part of this effort, she traveled to Cambridge, England, in early October.

HASS Enrollment Statistics by Field and Subject: Recent Trends

After a three-year decline from AY2003 to AY2005, total enrollments in all HASS subjects were up for the second year in a row (from 9,674 in AY2006 to 9,937 in AY2007), though fewer HASS subjects were offered (478, compared to 516 the previous year). There were also fewer autonomous sections: 598 in AY2007, compared to 636 in AY2006. The number of HASS-D subjects taught was down slightly: 121, compared to 126 last year. The two fields with the largest overall enrollments were the same as last year: 1,833 in economics (up from 1,746 last year) and 1,626 in foreign languages and literatures (down from 1,727 last year). The fields with the third and fourth highest enrollments also remained the same: literature (982) and writing and humanistic studies (848). These were followed by music (673, not including 6-unit music performance subjects) and philosophy (595). Although there was a considerable range among the various disciplines in HASS—some experienced a significant drop in enrollments, some remained stable, and some saw a significant increase—many more experienced an increase (14) than a decrease (5). Archaeology had by far the largest percentage increase in enrollments over last year: 64%, from 84 to 138. Archaeology was followed by comparative media studies (CMS), with a 39% increase, from 28 to 39. (There were two undergraduate CMS subjects in AY2006, and three in AY2007.) The next largest percentage increase in was in women's studies, with 29% (from 73 to 94), followed by visual arts with 22%, (from 120 to 146).

Philosophy had a 17% increase in enrollments, and linguistics and literature each increased enrollments by 16%.

HASS Concentrations: Patterns of Popularity

In AY2007, students submitted 1,953 HASS concentration proposals and 1,092 completion forms, compared to 1,861 proposals and 1,039 completion forms last year. Once again, economics and foreign languages led in the number of completed HASS concentrations: 324 students completed concentrations in economics (compared to 325 the previous year), and 201 completed concentrations in foreign languages and literatures (compared to 183 the previous year). (For a breakdown by languages, see Table 2.) The next most popular HASS concentration was music, with 84 completed concentrations. These three were followed by political science (57), literature (53), psychology (42), and philosophy (41).

HASS Minor Programs

The number of HASS minors increased in AY2007; there were 458 HASS minor applications from all graduating classes, compared to 414 last year. The three most popular fields in terms of applications filed were: economics (118), applied international studies (65), and foreign languages and literatures (a total of 61, including 7 in Chinese, 12 in French, 10 in German, 7 in Japanese, and 25 in Spanish). There were 37 minor applications in music, 31 in political science, and 26 in literature. The number of HASS minors received by the Class of 2007 was also up: 191 (compared to 174 last year) in 23 fields.

Harvard Cross-Registration

The number of MIT undergraduates who cross-registered for courses at Harvard declined very slightly this year. Two hundred and ten students took 225 subjects at Harvard, compared to 211 students enrolled in 237 subjects in AY2006 and 224 students in 258 subjects in AY2005. In AY2003 there had been an increase; the previous year saw a decrease in these enrollments, and the year prior to that there had been a sizable increase; enrollments seem to fluctuate for no obvious reason. As usual, foreign languages were the most popular field of study, accounting for 94 of the total 225 subjects. Those 94 subjects included a total of 17 different foreign languages. The most popular language was Chinese (21), followed by Arabic (16), Hebrew (15), and Korean (8). Enrollments in other languages ranged from one to six. The most popular field outside foreign languages was statistics (19); other popular fields were psychology (15), economics (13), and chemistry (12).

Undergraduate Degrees Granted in SHASS

Seventy-nine students received the SB in SHASS this year, down from 97 last year and 83 the previous year. Of these, 42 degrees were in economics (Course 14), nine were in political science (Course 17), and eight were in music. During the same period, 24 students completed the SB degree in some field in humanities (Course 21), including CMS. Four of these received joint degrees, 21-E and 21-S. Another 19 received degrees in a specified field within Course 21. Two students received the SB in philosophy and two others received the SB in linguistics and philosophy (Course 24).

Undergraduate Majors in SHASS

The four departments in SHASS had 125 undergraduate majors this year; this figure includes only first degrees. Seventy of these majors were in economics, 18 in political science, and 11 in philosophy or linguistics and philosophy. Twenty-six students had a humanities major as their first degree in AY2007; of these, six were joint majors (four in 21-E and two in 21-S.) Of the 19 specified majors within humanities, CMS had eight majors; literature, music, and writing each had three. Ten undergraduates had a first degree in philosophy or in linguistics and philosophy.

Honors and Awards Granted to Undergraduate Majors in SHASS

Among the more notable honors achieved by SHASS majors this year were:

- The Robert A. Boit Writing Prize–Poetry: 3rd prize, Nancy Hua '07
- The Robert A. Boit Writing Prize–Essay: 1st prize, Anna Wexler '07
- Burchard Scholars: Raja Bobbili '08, Ross Goodwin '09, Ruijie He '08, Reshmaan Hussam '09, Ellis Kim '09, Juan Prajogo '08, Thaned Pruttivarasin '08, Lucia Tian '08, Yi Zhou '09
- Undergraduate Economics Association Journal Prizes: Sinit Vitavasiri '07, Abdo Osman '08, Ali Wyne '08
- Austin Kelly III Essay Prizes: 2nd prize, Anna Wexler '07
- Phi Beta Kappa: Aitor Astobieta '07, Daniele Diab '07, Adam Dowlin Groce '07, Lori Huberman '07, Kyungmin Kim '07, Hoai-Luu Nguyen '07, Sinit Vitavasiri '07, Nicholas Day Walrath '07, Shenghan Yan '07, Stella Young '07
- Jeffrey L. Pressman Award: Margaret Carlton-Foss '09
- Outstanding Political Science Undergraduate Thesis Award: Tabitha Bonilla '07, Angela Kilby '07
- Louis Sudler Prize in the Arts: Lori Huberman '07
- Lufthansa Award for Excellence in German Studies: 2nd prize, Petra Stoyanof '07; 3rd prize, Arnaldo Pereira-Diaz '09
- Ragnar and Margaret Naess Award: Thomas Carr '09, Jeffrey Easley '08, Serenus Hua '07, Jun Liu '07, Yee-Kwan Lo '08, Simone Ovsey '09, Matthew Roitstein '07
- Association of MIT Alumnae Senior Academic Award: Honorable Mention, Stella Young '07
- Epstein Award: Matthew Roitstein '07

- Gregory Tucker Memorial Prize: Jeffrey Easley '08
- Philip Loew Memorial Awards: Justin Lo '07, Nina Young '07
- Joseph D. Everingham Award: Elizabeth Stephanopoulos '07
- Kelly-Douglas Traveling Fellowships: Lara Kostun '08, Erik Lin-Greenberg '09, Jennifer Yeh '07
- Enterprise Poets Prize in Imagining a Future: 1st prize, Nancy Hua '07
- DeWitt Wallace Prize for Science Writing for the Public: 2nd prize, Anna Wexler '07
- Literature Student Prize: Aitor Astobieta '07; Honorable Mention, Heather Coffin '07
- Ideas Competition: \$5,000 Award for New Dots, Angela Kilby '07; \$2,500 Award for Team Treatment Buddy, Kathleen Cui '08
- Patrick J. McGovern '59 Entrepreneurship Award: Josephine Duh '08

Bette Davis
Director

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

Table 1. Enrollment in Humanities, Arts, and Social Science Subjects, 2006–2007

Field	Elective subjects			HASS-Distribution			Total enrollment		
	Subjects	Sections	Students	Subjects	Sections	Students	Subjects	Sections	Students
Anthropology	15	15	223	2	2	47	17	17	270
Archaeology	6	6	86	1	1	52	7	7	138
CMS	3	3	39	0	0	0	3	3	39
Economics	19	40	1,744	3	3	89	22	43	1,833
Foreign Languages & Literature	65	90	1,015	26	43	611	91	133	1,626
History	22	22	204	13	13	311	35	35	515
History of Architecture & Art	3	3	25	4	4	108	7	7	133
Linguistics	7	7	57	2	2	179	9	9	236
Literature	27	27	290	21	32	692	48	59	982
Music*	24	30	330	8	15	343	32	45	673
Philosophy	15	15	184	6	6	411	21	21	595
Political Science	25	25	331	9	9	214	34	34	545
Psychology	10	10	352	0	0	0	10	10	352
Science, Technology, & Society	16	16	144	3	3	167	19	19	311
Theater Arts ^a	18	23	213	3	3	31	21	26	244
Urban Studies	13	13	186	2	2	45	15	15	231
Visual Arts	11	11	81	2	4	65	13	15	146
Women's & Gender Studies	13	13	42	5	5	52	18	18	94
Writing	37	57	674	9	15	174	46	72	848
Other Subjects	8	8	94	2	2	32	10	10	126
Total	357	434	6,314	121	164	3,623	478	598	9,937

Notes:

1. Figures were obtained from the MIT Student Information System, which shows the final tally for each class.
2. The numbers shown are for undergraduate subjects that normally satisfy the HASS Requirement; they do not include subjects allowed by petition.
3. 'Sections' refers to the number of autonomous class sections; it does not apply to subjects that meet in a single lecture and divide into discussion sections.
4. For joint subjects, figures are given for the subject number under which students enrolled.
5. HASS-D Language Option subjects (Level III or IV languages) are included in the HASS-D figures.

*Music and Theater Arts 6-unit performance subjects are not included in these statistics.

Table 2. Concentrations in All the Fields of Humanities, Arts, and Social Science*, June 2007

Fields of concentration	Class of 2010		Class of 2009		Class of 2008		Class of 2007		Total	
	P*	C**	P*	C**	P*	C**	P*	C**	P*	C**
American Studies	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	2	4	2
Ancient & Medieval Studies	0	0	3	0	3	2	2	2	8	4
Anthropology	0	0	8	0	8	3	22	18	38	21
Archaeology	0	0	1	0	2	0	9	9	12	9
Black Studies	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	2	1
Comparative Media Studies	0	0	9	0	17	1	26	24	52	25
East Asian Studies	0	0	7	0	9	3	22	19	38	22
Economics	0	0	92	2	130	28	320	294	542	324
Ethnic Studies	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	3	2
Foreign Languages***	0	0	92	3	114	22	194	176	400	201
History	0	0	13	1	16	0	39	34	68	35
History of Architecture & Art	0	0	2	0	5	1	8	7	15	8
Labor in Industrial Society	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Latin American Studies	0	0	1	0	2	0	4	4	7	4
Linguistics	0	0	7	2	8	5	7	6	22	13
Literature	0	0	17	0	30	7	51	46	98	53
Middle Eastern Studies	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	1	3	1
Music	0	0	21	0	32	4	87	80	140	84
Philosophy	0	0	5	0	27	6	37	35	69	41
Political Science	0	0	13	0	33	5	56	52	102	57
Psychology	1	0	13	0	21	3	42	39	77	42
Religious Studies	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	1	4	1
Russian Studies	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	4	0
Science, Technology, & Society	0	0	16	0	14	2	34	32	64	34
Theater Arts	0	0	7	0	4	2	31	28	42	30
Urban Studies	1	0	5	0	10	1	19	19	35	20
Visual Arts & Design	1	0	0	0	2	0	10	9	13	9
Women's & Gender Studies	0	0	4	0	5	2	12	12	21	14
Writing	0	0	16	0	19	1	34	33	69	34
Special Concentrations	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
Total	3	0	357	8	519	99	1,074	985	1,953	1,092

*P=Proposed concentrations in the given class and field.

**C=Number of proposed concentrations that have been completed.

***Figures for subfields of Foreign Languages and Literatures are below:

Chinese	0	0	24	1	19	1	29	26	72	28
English as a Second Language	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	2	1
Foreign Language & Theory	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
French	0	0	13	1	14	4	25	20	52	25
German	0	0	9	0	12	0	19	19	40	19
International Literature & Cultures	0	0	1	0	1	1	4	4	6	5
Japanese	0	0	17	1	23	5	29	25	69	31
Spanish	0	0	27	0	41	10	76	72	144	82
Other Languages	0	0	0	0	4	1	10	8	14	9
Total	0	0	92	3	114	22	194	176	400	201

Table 3. Undergraduate Majors

Year	Economics	Humanities*	Linguistics & Philosophy	Political Science	Total
1996–1997	99	31	8	31	169
1997–1998	111	41	12	30	194
1998–1999	91	55	6	18	170
1999–2000	93	29	14	15	151
2000–2001	84	25	10	16	135
2001–2002	82	23	11	34	150
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

*These figures do not include double majors who registered first in a course other than Humanities. (If double majors are included, the figure is 59.)

Table 4. Graduate Students

Year	Economics	HASTS*	Linguistics & Philosophy	Political Science	CMS**	Science Writing***	Total
1996–1997	132	28	68	123	—	—	351
1997–1998	122	31	65	120	—	—	338
1998–1999	121	33	69	116	—	—	339
1999–2000	129	31	68	90	5	—	323
2000–2001	134	26	70	99	13	—	342
2001–2002	140	23	68	85	20	—	336
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

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

**Comparative Media Studies (CMS): AY2000 was the first year of the new CMS graduate program.

***AY2003 was the first year of the new Science Writing graduate program.

Table 5. HASS Minor Applicants for Classes of 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010

Field	Applications	Candidates*
Ancient & Medieval Studies	3	1
Anthropology	4	1
Applied International Studies	65	9
Comparative Media Studies	8	3
Economics	118	71
Foreign Languages		
Chinese	7	4
French	12	2
German	10	1
Japanese	7	4
Spanish	25	11
History	12	3
History of Architecture & Art	1	0
Linguistics	2	0
Literature	26	9
Music	37	22
Philosophy	4	2
Political Science	31	19
Psychology	24	8
Public Policy	7	1
Regional Studies Minor Programs		
African & African Diaspora	0	0
East Asian Studies	8	2
European Studies	0	0
Latin American Studies	3	0
Middle Eastern Studies	0	0
Russian Studies	2	0
Science, Technology & Society	7	4
Theater Arts	13	4
Urban Studies and Planning	7	4
Women's & Gender Studies	3	1
Writing	12	5
Total	458	191

*Includes February and June 2007, and September 2006 candidates.