

Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Education Office

Academic year 2007–2008 was a busy year in the Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (HASS) Education Office. The administrative assistant, Patricia Fernandes, moved to another position at MIT in October and has not been replaced by another permanent staff member at this point. Temporary staff have assisted the director in the interim. 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 an ex officio member of the HOC, and the administrative assistant took the minutes. HOC, chaired by Professor Jeffrey Ravel, continued its review of HASS Distribution (HASS-D) and Communication Intensive (CI-H) subjects by department and undertook a survey of HASS concentrations and minors, which it will continue 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 and 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 closely with Information Services and Technology staff responsible for switching the HASS-D Lottery from PowerBuilder to a web-based application. The fall 2008 lottery will run on the new application in August.

Dr. Davis has continued to be involved with the undergraduate exchange component of the Cambridge-MIT Exchange, specifically 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 in early October.

HASS Enrollment Statistics by Field and Subject: Recent Trends

After increasing the past two years, total enrollments in all HASS subjects decreased slightly this year (from 9,674 in AY2006 and 9,937 in AY2007 to 9,804 in AY2008). More HASS subjects were offered than last year (512, compared to 478 in AY2007) but fewer than in AY2006 (516). There were also more autonomous sections: 654 in AY2008 as compared to 598 in AY2007 and 636 in AY2006. The number of HASS-D subjects taught was up as well: 129, compared to 121 last year and 126 the previous year. The two fields with the largest overall enrollments were the same as last year, but in reverse order: 1,750 in foreign languages and literatures (up from 1,626 last year) and 1,728 in economics (down from 1,833 last year). The fields with the third and fourth highest enrollments also remained the same: literature (897) and writing and humanistic studies (791). These were followed by music (734, not including six-unit music performance subjects), political science (587), and history (543). There was a considerable range among the various disciplines in HASS; some experienced a drop in enrollments, some remained stable, and some saw an increase. Overall, eight disciplines experienced an increase and 11 showed a decrease. Science, technology, and society (STS) had the largest percentage increase: 16%, from 311 to 361. STS was followed by music, at 9% (from 673 to 734); foreign languages and literatures, at 8% (from 1,626 to 1,750); political science, also at 8% (from 545 to 587); and women's and gender studies, at 7% (from 94 to 101).

HASS Concentrations: Patterns of Popularity

In AY2008, students submitted 2,081 HASS concentration proposals and 1,149 completion forms, compared to 1,953 proposals and 1,092 completion forms last year. Once again, economics and foreign languages led in the number of completed HASS concentrations: 318 students completed concentrations in economics (compared to 324 in AY2007), and 226 completed concentrations in foreign languages and literatures (compared to 201 in 2006–2007). (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 literature (67), political science (60), psychology (53), and history (51).

HASS Minor Programs

The number of HASS minors increased again in AY2008; there were 468 HASS minor applications from all graduating classes, compared to 458 last year. The number of HASS minors received by the Class of 2008 was also up—236, compared to 191 last year. The three most popular fields in terms of applications filed were economics (126), applied international studies (61), and foreign languages and literatures (a total of 57, including five in Chinese, 14 in French, six in German, nine in Japanese, and 23 in Spanish). There were 32 minor applications in political science, 29 in psychology, 28 in music, and 27 in literature. The 236 HASS minors received by members of the Class of 2008 were in 26 fields.

Harvard Cross-Registration

The number of MIT undergraduates who cross-registered for courses at Harvard increased slightly this year. Two hundred fifteen students took 251 subjects at Harvard, compared to 210 students enrolled in 225 subjects in AY2007, 211 students enrolled in 237 subjects in AY2006, and 224 students enrolled 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. This is the first time since we began compiling these statistics in AY1983 that foreign languages was not the most popular field. In AY2008, 81 students enrolled in foreign languages, whereas 98 enrolled in sciences. The explanation for this is quite clear; “statistics” is included in the category of “sciences,” and 40 MIT undergraduates took statistics. This is probably a one-time phenomenon; students explained that it was the last time that Course 9 would accept the Harvard statistics course to fulfill a major requirement.

The 81 foreign language subjects included a total of 18 different languages. The most popular languages were Arabic (17), Russian (12), and Portuguese (10). Enrollments in other languages ranged from one to seven. The most popular fields outside foreign languages and statistics were psychology (28), biology (19), and chemistry (17).

Undergraduate Degrees Granted in SHASS

Seventy-eight students received the SB in SHASS this year, compared to 79 last year and 97 the previous year. Of these degrees, 35 were in economics (Course 14), seven were in comparative media studies (CMS), six were in political science (Course 17), and five

were in music. During the same period (September 2007 through June 2008), 25 students completed the SB degree in a humanities (Course 21) field, not including CMS. Seven of these students received joint degrees, 21-E and 21-S. Another 15 received degrees in a specified field within Course 21. One student received the SB in philosophy, and four others received the SB in linguistics and philosophy (Course 24).

Undergraduate Majors in SHASS

The four departments in SHASS had 128 undergraduate majors in AY2008; this figure includes only first degrees. Sixty-eight of these majors were in economics, 20 in political science, and 11 in CMS. Twenty-one students had a humanities major as their first degree in AY2008, not counting CMS; of these, seven were joint majors (five in 21-E and two in 21-S). Of the 13 specified majors within humanities, history, music, and writing each had three. Eight 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—Science Fiction: 1st prize, Samantha Weiss '08; honorable mention, Gillian Conahan '10, Anneke Schwob '10
- The Robert A. Boit Writing Prize—Poetry: 1st prize, Sarah Dupuis-Kornreich '10
- The Robert A. Boit Writing Prize—Short Story: 1st prize, Anneke Schwob '10; 2nd prize, Samantha Weiss '08; 3rd prize, Molly Jabas '08
- Boit Manuscript Prize—Essay: honorable mention, Sarah Dupuis-Kornreich '10
- Boit Manuscript Prize—Drama: honorable mention, Sarah Dupuis-Kornreich '10
- Boit Manuscript Prize—Fiction: 2nd prize, Samantha Weiss '08; honorable mention, Gillian Conahan '10
- Burchard Scholars: Jean Cui '09, Samuel Hollander '09
- Edward S. Darna Award: Susan Wilson '08
- Distinguished Dedication Award: Lara Kostun '08
- Emerson Music Scholarship Award: Thomas Carr '08, Justin Lo '08, YeeKwan (Anna) Lo '08, Simone Ovsey '10
- Epstein Award: Jeffrey Easley '08
- Joseph D. Everingham Award: Hui Ying Wen '08
- I. Austin Kelly III Essay Prizes: Jamie Edwards '08, Erin Fitzgerald '10

- January Scholars in France: Serginio Sylvain '08, Tess Wise '10
- Kampf Writing Prize: Caroline Rubin '08
- Kelly-Douglas Summer Traveling Fellowship: Matthew Lord '08
- 2008 Literature Prize for Dedication to Studies in Literature: Gayle Dunman '08
- Lufthansa Award for Excellence in German Studies: 3rd prize: Christopher Barnett '09, Lucia Tian Tian '08
- Ragnar and Margaret Noess Award: Thomas Carr '09, Jeffrey Easley '08, Simone Ovsey '10
- Richard and Jody Nordlof Award: Simone Ovsey '10
- Phi Beta Kappa: Yi Chen '08, Gayle Denman '08, Cankut Durgun '08, Jeffrey Easley '08, Ruijie He '08, Joshua Hessian '08, Justin Lo '08, Christopher N. Moh '08, Juan Prajogo '08, Thaned Pruttivarasin '08, John Rogosic '08, Caroline Rubin '08, Lucia Tian Tian '08, Di Wu '08
- Jeffrey L. Pressman Award: Daniel Yelin '10
- Public Service Fellowship, Independent Activities Period 2008: Nivedhitha Subramanian '10
- Public Service Fellowship, Summer 2008: Jessica Lynn Laviolette '09
- Public Service Grants: Kathleen Cui '08, Lara Kostun '08, Matthew Fisher '10, Stephen Tsai '10
- Student Leaders in Service AmeriCorps Education Award: Yalu Wu '09
- Louis Sudler Prize in the Arts: YeeKwan (Anna) Lo '08
- Gregory Tucker Memorial Prize: Thaned Pruttivarasin '08
- Undergraduate Economics Association Journal Prizes: Julia Dennett '08, Reshmaan Hussam '09, Joshua Hessian '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, 2007–2008

Field	Elective subjects			HASS-Distribution			Total enrollment		
	Subjects	Sections	Students	Subjects	Sections	Students	Subjects	Sections	Students
Anthropology	15	18	155	4	6	76	19	24	231
Archaeology	6	5	75	1	1	46	7	6	121
CMS	2	2	24	0	0	0	2	2	24
Economics	21	64	1,648	3	3	80	24	67	1,728
Foreign Languages & Literatures	69	89	1,130	26	45	620	95	134	1,750
History	25	25	227	12	12	316	37	37	543
History of Architecture & Art	0	0	0	4	4	94	4	4	94
Linguistics	7	7	61	2	2	189	9	9	250
Literature	35	35	277	22	29	620	57	64	897
Music*	29	35	372	10	19	362	39	54	734
Philosophy	18	18	182	6	6	323	24	24	505
Political Science	26	26	307	8	8	280	34	34	587
Psychology	10	10	361	0	0	0	10	10	361
Science, Technology, & Society	16	16	97	6	6	264	22	22	361
Theater Arts ^a	17	21	211	3	3	21	20	24	232
Urban Studies	14	13	161	2	2	62	16	15	223
Visual Arts	10	12	78	2	5	52	12	17	130
Women's & Gender Studies	17	17	46	6	6	55	23	23	101
Writing	34	54	633	9	12	158	43	66	791
Other Subjects	12	15	85	3	3	56	15	18	141
Total	383	482	6,130	129	(172)	3,674	512	654	9,804

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 2008

Fields of concentration	Class of 2011		Class of 2010		Class of 2009		Class of 2008		Total	
	P*	C**	P*	C**	P*	C**	P*	C**	P*	C**
American Studies	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
Ancient & Medieval Studies	0	0	3	0	5	0	6	5	14	5
Anthropology	0	0	7	0	13	3	19	19	39	22
Archaeology	0	0	8	0	2	0	3	3	13	3
Black Studies	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	2
Comparative Media Studies	0	0	9	0	12	2	32	27	53	29
East Asian Studies	0	0	3	0	8	0	19	17	30	17
Economics	0	0	86	1	146	31	312	286	544	318
Ethics	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	2	1
Ethnic Studies	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	2	1
Foreign Languages***	2	0	116	2	129	19	217	205	464	226
History	1	0	19	1	17	5	47	45	84	51
History of Architecture & Art	0	0	1	0	2	0	8	8	11	8
Labor in Industrial Society	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Latin American Studies	1	0	1	0	2	0	1	1	5	1
Linguistics	0	0	4	0	9	4	17	15	30	19
Literature	0	0	17	1	31	4	64	62	112	67
Middle Eastern Studies	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	1	4	1
Music	0	0	46	4	40	3	73	69	159	76
Philosophy	0	0	9	0	11	1	51	47	71	48
Political Science	0	0	19	0	15	5	60	55	94	60
Psychology	0	0	15	0	21	9	48	44	84	53
Religious Studies	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	2
Russian Studies	0	0	1	0	1	0	3	2	5	2
Science, Technology, & Society	0	0	18	0	21	2	44	39	83	41
Theater Arts	0	0	6	0	10	2	18	17	34	19
Urban Studies	0	0	5	0	6	0	16	16	27	16
Visual Arts & Design	0	0	3	0	4	0	8	8	15	8
Women's & Gender Studies	0	0	1	0	11	4	11	10	23	14
Writing	0	0	13	0	21	0	38	37	72	37
Special Concentrations	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	2	1
Total	4	0	414	9	539	94	1,124	1,046	2,081	1,149

*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	26	1	32	2	36	34	94	37
English as a Second Language	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	2	2
Foreign Languages & Theory	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	2	1
French	1	0	16	0	21	3	26	25	64	28
German	0	0	10	0	13	5	17	16	40	21
International Literature & Cultures	0	0	3	0	2	0	3	3	8	3
Japanese	0	0	21	1	22	3	33	26	76	30
Other Languages	0	0	3	0	0	0	8	8	11	8
Russian	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
Spanish	1	0	37	0	37	5	91	90	166	95
Total	2	0	116	2	129	19	217	205	464	226

Table 3. Undergraduate Majors

Year	Economics	Humanities*	Linguistics & Philosophy	Political Science	Total
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
2007–2008	68	32	8	20	128

*These figures do not include double majors who registered first in a course other than Humanities. (If double majors are included, the figure is 66.)

Table 4. Graduate Students

Year	Economics	HASTS*	Linguistics & Philosophy	Political Science	CMS**	Science Writing***	Total
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
2007–2008	114	30	73	68	20	7	312

*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 2008, 2009, 2010, and 2011

Field	Applications	Candidates*
Ancient & Medieval Studies	3	1
Anthropology	9	5
Applied International Studies	61	18
Comparative Media Studies	13	6
Economics	126	72
Foreign Languages		
Chinese	5	1
French	14	6
German	6	1
Japanese	9	3
Spanish	23	11
History	13	9
History of Architecture & Art	3	2
Linguistics	5	1
Literature	27	15
Music	28	13
Philosophy	5	4
Political Science	32	20
Psychology	29	18
Public Policy	6	4
Regional Studies Minor Programs		
African & African Diaspora	0	0
East Asian Studies	3	2
European Studies	0	0
Latin American Studies	1	0
Middle Eastern Studies	0	0
Russian Studies	2	2
Science, Technology & Society	4	1
Theater Arts	11	7
Urban Studies and Planning	10	4
Women's & Gender Studies	5	2
Writing	15	8
Total	468	236

*Includes February and June 2008, and September 2007 candidates.