

Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Education Office

This has been another busy and productive year for the Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (HASS) Education Office. Liz Friedman became the new administrative assistant on September 1; she is a welcome addition and an asset to the office.

In academic year 2009, the HASS Distribution (HASS-D) Lottery ran for the first time on a new web-based application, both fall and spring terms. It was a successful transition, running smoothly both times. The fall 2008 *HASS Guide* (produced in the spring) was the last printed version of the *Guide*. The information contained in the paper *Guide* has been available on the web for some time; it is now available only on the web. The two biggest projects this year, apart from ongoing tasks, were work on the “Undergraduate Studies” portion of the new School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (SHASS) website, which went live in May, and work with John Scanlon of Information Services and Technology to ensure that we will be able to retrieve all the data we need from the Data Warehouse using Brio Query so that we can discontinue the HASS Minor database. (Maintaining the latter requires that all HASS minor data be entered twice—in MITSIS and in the database.)

Ongoing tasks included working with the HASS Overview Committee (Bette Davis as ex officio member and Liz Friedman as secretary), handling HASS concentrations and minors, handling the Harvard Cross-Registration Program for MIT undergraduates, and compiling statistics for the SHASS dean. 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 Cambridge. As part of this effort, she traveled to Cambridge in early October.

HASS Enrollment Statistics by Field and Subject: Recent Trends

After increasing to 9,937 in AY2007 and decreasing to 9,804 in AY2008, total enrollments in all HASS subjects increased this year to 10,001. (Independent Activities Period [IAP] enrollments are included for the first time this year, but account for only about 100 students.) There were more HASS subjects offered than last year: 542, compared to 512 in AY2008 and 478 in AY2007. The number of HASS-D subjects taught was up as well: 139, compared to 129 in AY2008 and 121 the year before. The two fields with the largest overall enrollments were the same as last year: foreign languages and literatures (1,810, up from 1,750 last year) and economics (1,735, up from 1,728 last year). Fields with the third and fourth highest enrollments also remained the same, with almost exactly the same number of enrollments: writing and humanistic studies (794) and literature (793). These were followed by music (732, not including six-unit music performance subjects), history (579), philosophy (550), and political science (518). There was a considerable range among the various HASS disciplines; some experienced a drop in enrollments, some remained stable, and some fields saw an increase. Eleven fields experienced an increase, compared to five that showed a decrease. Enrollments in three fields—economics, music, and writing—remained essentially the same, varying only by a few students. The largest percentage increase by far—313%—was in comparative media

studies (CMS), whose enrollments rose from 24 to 99 students; however, this statistic includes enrollment in eight subjects, compared to two subjects in AY2008. The next largest percentage increase was in visual arts, 18% (from 130 to 154) followed by the history of architecture and art, 11% (from 94 to 104). Philosophy (from 505 to 550) and theater arts (from 232 to 253) both increased by 9%. History; psychology; and science, technology, and society all increased by 7%.

HASS Concentrations: Patterns of Popularity

In AY2009, students submitted 2,126 HASS concentration proposals and 1,083 completion forms, compared to 2081 proposals and 1,149 completion forms in AY2008, and 1,953 proposals and 1,092 completion forms in AY2007. Once again, economics and foreign languages led in the number of completed HASS concentrations: in AY2009, 306 students completed concentrations in economics (compared to 318 last year) and 226 completed concentrations in foreign languages and literatures (exactly the same as the previous year). For a breakdown by languages, see Table 2. The next most popular HASS concentration field was music, with 89 completed concentrations. These three were followed by history (53), psychology (49), philosophy (46), and literature (45).

HASS Minor Programs

The number of HASS minors decreased in AY2009 from 468 HASS minor applications from all graduating classes last year to 390 this year. The number of HASS minors received by the Class of 2009 was also down, from 236 to 192. The three most popular fields in terms of applications filed were economics (112), applied international studies (55), and music (41). There were 39 minor applications in foreign languages and literatures, including 12 in Spanish, 10 in Chinese, seven in French, seven in Japanese, and three in German. Foreign languages and literatures was followed by political science (25), writing (19), psychology (16), and literature (14). The 192 HASS minors received by members of the Class of 2009 were in 24 fields.

Harvard Cross-Registration

The number of MIT undergraduates who cross-registered for courses at Harvard decreased significantly this year: 175 students took 187 subjects at Harvard, compared to 215 students enrolled in 251 subjects in AY2008, 210 students enrolled in 225 subjects in AY2007, and 211 students enrolled in 237 subjects in AY2006. In AY2003 there had been an increase, the previous year saw a decrease, and the year prior to that there had been a sizable increase; enrollments seem to fluctuate for no obvious reason. Foreign languages reestablished itself as the most popular field; last year was the only year since we began compiling statistics in AY1983 that it was not in that position. In AY2009, 86 students enrolled in foreign languages, 47 more than in the next most popular field, social sciences.

The 81 foreign language subjects included a total of 20 different languages. Among the more esoteric were Coptic, Nepali, and Tamil. The most popular language was Arabic (27). The next most popular languages were French and Portuguese, with eight each. Enrollments in other languages ranged from one to six. The most popular fields outside foreign languages were economics (15), government (12), and chemistry (11).

Undergraduate Degrees Granted in SHASS

Eighty-two students received the SB in SHASS this year, compared to 78 last year and 79 the previous year. Of these, 42 degrees were in economics (Course 14), followed by 10 in political science (Course 17), seven in music, and five in humanities (Course 21, major departures). During the same time period (September 2008 through June 2009) a total of 17 students completed the SB degree in some specified field in the humanities (Course 21), including CMS. Five received joint degrees, 21-E and 21-S. Three students received the SB in philosophy (Course 24-1).

Undergraduate Majors in SHASS

The four departments in SHASS had 140 undergraduate majors this year; this figure includes only first degrees. Eighty-two of these majors were in economics, 14 in political science, and 13 in CMS. Twenty-six students had a humanities major as their first degree in AY2009, not counting CMS; of these, eight were joint majors (six in 21-E and two in 21-S.) Of the 17 specified majors within humanities, six were in music and five in literature. Five undergraduates had a first degree 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:

Admiral Luis de Florez Prize: Jesse M. Carr '09

Boit Manuscript Prize—Drama: 1st prize, Anneke Schwob '10

Brad and Dorothea Endicott Award: Thomas Carr '09

Burchard Scholars: Ugwechi Amadi '10, Warren Chan '09, Kristina Cibor '11,
Manisha Padi '09, Diane Rak '10, Jared Sadoian '11

DeWitt Wallace Prize for Science Writing for the Public: 2nd prize, Anneke Schwob '10

Edward S. Darna Award: Hanna Kuznetsov '09

Emerson Music Fellowship—Piano: Thomas Carr '09

Frederick Gardner Fassett Jr. Award: David Hutchings '10

Gregory Tucker Memorial Prizes: Yi-Hsin Lin '09, Benjamin Park '10

J. and E. Ruina Certificate: Thomas Carr '09

James Means Memorial Award: Joseph S. Pokora '09

Kelly-Douglas Summer '09 Traveling Fellowship: Diana Jue '09

Laya and Jerome Wiesner Art Award: Simone Ovsey '10

Louis Sudler Prize in the Arts: Michael R. Miller '09

Mazlish Undergraduate Essay Competition: 2nd place, Samuel Hollander '09

Order of Omega National Honor Society Initiates: Manvi Goel '09,
David Hutchings '10

Outstanding Alumnus/Volunteer Award: Raffaella Wakeman '08

Phi Beta Kappa: PoTing Cheung '09, Jacqueline Douglass '09, Yuqiao Huang '09,
Ashley Micks '09, Alex Rothberg '09, Wendy Wen '09

Philip Loew Memorial Awards: Annie Raymond '09, Kathryn Shroyer '09

Prize for Writing Science Fiction: 1st prize, Gillian Conahan '10

Public Service Center Grants, Fall 2008: Gil Zamfirescu-Pereira '09

Public Service Center Grants, IAP 2009: Manvi Goel '09, Sarina Siddhanti '09

Public Service Center Grants, Summer 2008: Seema Kacker '10, Jessica Laviolette '09

Ragnar and Margaret Naess Certificate—Exceptional Percussionist: Simone Ovsey '09

Ragnar and Margaret Naess Certificate—Exceptional Pianist: Sarah Rumbley '12

Senior Legacy Awards: Nicholas Calluzzo '09, Hanna Kuznetsov '09

Stephen M. Meyer Outstanding Undergraduate Political Science Thesis Award:
Nicholas Calluzzo '09

The Joseph D. Everingham Award: Ashley Micks '09

The Leaders for Manufacturing Prize: Ashley E. Micks '09

The Robert A. Boit Writing Prize—Short Story: 2nd prize, Anneke Schwob '10

Undergraduate Economics Association Prize for Excellence in Writing: 1st place,
Alex Rothberg '09; 2nd place, Inessa Liskovich '09; 3rd place, Charles Wu '10

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, 2008–2009

Field	Elective subjects		HASS-Distribution		Total enrollment	
	Subjects	Students	Subjects	Students	Subjects	Students
Anthropology	14	118	4	56	18	174
Archaeology	6	86	1	28	7	114
CMS	7	62	1	37	8	99
Economics	19	1,655	3	80	22	1,735
Foreign Languages & Literatures	93	1,149	27	661	120	1,810
History	24	238	15	341	39	579
History of Architecture & Art	3	18	4	86	7	104
Linguistics	6	57	3	207	9	264
Literature	31	250	21	543	52	793
Music*	27	356	11	376	38	732
Philosophy	15	189	7	361	22	550
Political Science	24	276	8	242	32	518
Psychology	9	364	1	22	10	386
Science, Technology, & Society	17	82	7	305	24	387
Theater Arts ^a	20	221	4	32	24	253
Urban Studies	12	185	2	44	14	229
Visual Arts	10	69	2	85	12	154
Women's & Gender Studies	11	32	5	63	16	95
Writing	40	630	10	164	50	794
Other Subjects	15	195	3	36	18	231
Total	403	6,232	139	3,769	542	10,001

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. For joint subjects, figures are given for the subject number under which students enrolled.
4. HASS-D Language Option subjects (Level III or IV languages) are included in the HASS-D figures.
5. Independent Activities Period HASS-Elective subjects and enrollments are included in this year's figures for the first time.

* 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 Sciences*, June 2009

Fields of concentration	Class of 2012		Class of 2011		Class of 2010		Class of 2009		Total	
	P*	C**	P*	C**	P*	C**	P*	C**	P*	C**
American Studies	0	0	3	0	2	0	0	0	5	0
Ancient & Medieval Studies	0	0	7	0	3	1	7	6	17	7
Anthropology	0	0	6	0	12	1	15	13	33	14
Archaeology	0	0	4	0	8	2	5	5	17	7
Black Studies	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Comparative Media Studies	1	0	10	0	12	3	28	21	51	24
East Asian Studies	0	0	9	0	9	0	20	19	38	19
Economics	1	0	103	2	120	21	308	283	532	306
Ethics	0	0	8	0	1	0	0	0	9	0
Ethnic Studies	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
Foreign Languages***	3	0	114	1	155	29	208	196	480	226
History	0	0	13	0	33	6	48	47	94	53
History of Architecture & Art	0	0	1	0	2	0	4	4	7	4
Labor in Industrial Society	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
Latin American Studies	0	0	2	0	1	0	3	3	6	3
Linguistics	0	0	10	0	3	0	19	16	32	16
Literature	0	0	25	1	28	3	44	41	97	45
Middle Eastern Studies	0	0	2	0	2	0	4	3	8	3
Music	1	0	42	1	66	11	87	77	196	89
Philosophy	0	0	8	0	17	1	48	45	73	46
Political Science	0	0	21	0	26	5	35	33	82	38
Psychology	1	0	20	1	24	6	43	42	88	49
Religious Studies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Russian Studies	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Science, Technology, & Society	0	0	11	0	27	4	38	37	76	41
Theater Arts	0	0	12	0	9	0	16	14	37	14
Urban Studies	0	0	7	0	5	1	10	10	22	11
Visual Arts & Design	0	0	11	0	6	0	14	13	31	13
Women's & Gender Studies	1	0	4	0	4	0	17	17	26	17
Writing	0	0	10	0	20	4	33	32	63	36
Special Concentrations	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0
Total	8	0	465	6	597	98	1,056	979	2,126	1,083

*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	23	0	35	4	53	49	111	53
English as a Second Language	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	2	1
Foreign Languages & Theory	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	3	3
French	1	0	26	0	27	7	31	29	85	36
German	1	0	10	0	12	3	20	18	43	21
International Literature & Cultures	0	0	2	0	5	0	7	7	14	7
Japanese	1	0	19	0	21	6	37	34	78	40
Other Languages	0	0	4	0	3	0	2	2	9	2
Russian	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Spanish	0	0	29	1	52	9	54	53	135	63
Total	3	0	114	1	155	29	208	196	480	226

Table 3. Undergraduate Majors

Year	Economics	Humanities	Linguistics & Philosophy	Political Science	Total
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
2008–2009	82	39*	5	14	140

*These figures do not include double majors who registered first in a course other than Humanities. (If double majors are included, the figure is 58.)

Table 4. Graduate Students

Year	Economics	HASTS*	Linguistics & Philosophy	Political Science	CMS**	Science Writing***	Total
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
2008–2009	115	29	71	69	24	9	317

*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 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012

Field	Applications	Candidates*
Ancient & Medieval Studies	2	0
Anthropology	3	2
Applied International Studies	55	22
Comparative Media Studies	12	3
Economics	112	64
Foreign Languages		
Chinese	10	3
French	7	3
German	3	3
Japanese	7	2
Spanish	12	5
History	9	5
History of Architecture & Art	1	1
Linguistics	5	5
Literature	14	6
Music	41	17
Philosophy	3	2
Political Science	25	16
Psychology	16	7
Public Policy	2	1
Regional Studies Minor Programs		
African & African Diaspora	0	0
East Asian Studies	1	0
European Studies	0	0
Latin American Studies	2	1
Middle Eastern Studies	1	0
Russian Studies	0	0
Science, Technology & Society	12	5
Theater Arts	3	1
Urban Studies and Planning	9	6
Women's & Gender Studies	4	3
Writing	19	9
Total	390	192

*Includes February and June 2009, and September 2008 candidates.