

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

The School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (SHASS) worked hard this year to strengthen existing research and teaching programs and to expand the mission of the School in new directions.

This year was marked once more by another phase of budget cutting for our sections and departments. The Dean's Office also cut its budget substantially, resulting in the loss of a staff member and the reduction in funding for faculty research efforts. Nonetheless, the School felt fortunate that the cuts were not crippling or fatal to our mission, and it emerged from the budget crisis in a leaner and more alert frame of mind.

This was the first year in which the restructuring of the Humanities Visiting Committee was implemented. In previous years, this committee was responsible for Anthropology; History; Science, Technology, and Society; Literature; Foreign Languages and Literatures; Writing and Humanistic Studies; Comparative Media Studies; and Women's and Gender Studies. Following a proposal to divide these responsibilities between two committees—one for humanities and one for social sciences—a Social Sciences Visiting Committee met in October. It was the clear consensus of the committee and the School that this was a vastly improved organizational mode, allowing much more time to discuss the challenges and accomplishments of the sections.

A proposal to reorganize several humanities sections was presented to faculty this year, and was the subject of many meetings and much discussion. The idea to consolidate several small sections (Literature, Writing, Foreign Languages and Literatures, Comparative Media Studies) into one department proved untenable. The current plan calls for the consolidation of faculty in these groups into two sections: Literature and Media Studies, which will allow faculty to build on existing strengths in literature, including global literature, on the one hand, and in digital media, creative writing, science writing, and transnational media, on the other. A committee composed of faculty outside SHASS has been organized to assist the School in developing this plan over the coming year.

The Global Council, chaired by Ford International professor of political science Richard Samuels (Political Science and Center for International Studies) and Philip J. Solondz professor of engineering Dick Kau-Ping Yue (Mechanical Engineering) issued its final report "Mens et Manus et Mundus," which articulated the unique and powerful role that MIT can play in educating students for their future on the global stage. The report made a series of recommendations, including the proposal to create a Global Scholars Program for undergraduates, increased support for languages and classes in foreign cultures and history, and increased support for existing and uniquely MIT programs such as D-Lab and the MIT International Science and Technology Initiatives (MISTI).

The Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship program has been a huge success, bringing four young humanities postdocs to campus for two-year residencies. The excitement generated by these scholars is palpable and makes a huge impact on the small programs in which they are located. The Energy and Society Postdoctoral Fellowship has been discontinued due to lack of funding.

The Dean's Office moved its headquarters this year from its longtime home in Building E51 to Building 4; the HASS Education Office also moved from Building 14N to Building 4, allowing a welcome consolidation of staff. This move has had an extremely positive effect on staff and faculty alike.

### **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 one of our departments or sections, or choose from among several interdisciplinary majors and minors. In AY2010, 89 students completed undergraduate degrees in the School.

As the interests of students admitted to MIT continue to diversify, the School's role 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 matriculate. SHASS faculty 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 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 addition of the Communication Requirement has added to this oversight task, especially since the Subcommittee on the Communication Requirement (SOCR) has delegated to the School responsibility for reviewing classes that meet the Communication Intensive in the Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (CI-H) portion of the Communication Requirement. The HASS Overview Committee bears direct responsibility for reviewing subjects that are proposed to fulfill the HASS-D and CI-H requirements. This past year, the committee was chaired by associate dean Kai von Fintel. Other committee members were professors Ute Meta Bauer (Architecture), Edward Flemming (Linguistics and Philosophy), Erica James (Anthropology), Helen Lee (Writing and Humanistic Studies), Roger Petersen (Political Science), Emma Teng (Foreign Languages and Literature) and student Tess Wise '10 (Course 21F). Dr. Bette Davis, director of the HASS Education Office, served *ex officio*. Professor Samuel Allen (Materials Science and Engineering), assistant dean Kathleen MacArthur from SOCR, and Suzanne Lane from Writing Across the Curriculum were regular guests. HASS-D and CI-H licenses were granted for several new subjects, and numerous subjects were relicensed after extensive review.

A main focus of the work of the associate dean this year was planning and implementing the transition from the previous HASS-D system to the new streamlined HASS-Distribution Requirement, as approved by the MIT Faculty on May 20, 1999. Oversight of the HASS Requirement is moving to a new permanent Faculty committee: the Committee on the Undergraduate Program's Subcommittee on the HASS Requirement. Students entering in fall 2010 will fall under the new requirement, while, for three more

years, the previous cohorts will graduate under the old version of the requirement. This year also saw the planning for the transfer of oversight of the CI-HW component of the Communication Requirement (which emphasizes writing) to SOCR in AY2011.

The SHASS Dean's Office continues to support curricular renewal and, especially, the development of First Year Focus subjects both logistically and financially.

### **Affirmative Action**

While the number of women on the SHASS faculty has fluctuated over the last decade, the percentage of women faculty in SHASS remains at approximately one-third of the total. In AY2010, 52, or 32%, of our 164 faculty members were women, and in AY2011 we will have 51, or 31% women faculty, out of a total of 166. This net loss of one woman is the result of the loss of two women faculty (one senior/one junior) and one new hire (junior). However, we remain committed to increasing women's representation and hope to yield an increase during this coming academic year's recruitment efforts. Of the 52 women on faculty in AY2010, 38 were tenured (representing 30% of the tenured faculty).

The School has had moderate success in recruiting minority faculty, and both the number and percentage of minority faculty has been slowly increasing. The total number of minority faculty in the School in AY2009 was 29 (17%); in AY2010 there were 31 minority faculty (18%). In AY2011, there will be 33 (20%) minority members on the faculty, 16 of whom are underrepresented minorities. This increase is due to the successful recruitment of three minorities (one Asian American male in Political Science, and two African American males in Anthropology and Writing and Humanistic Studies).

The School also remains committed to increasing the representation of minorities among its administrative staff. There are currently seven minorities (three African Americans, two Hispanic Americans, and two Asian Americans) among the 38 members of SHASS administrative staff, which is a total of 18% minority representation. Three of these minority staff members are in the Dean's Office, comprising 38% of the Dean's Office staff. We hope to further our efforts at diversifying our administrative staff by working closely with the School's departments and programs and with the Office of Human Resources.

### **Honors and Awards**

SHASS faculty members garnered an array of honors and awards this year, several of which are mentioned below.

Vivek Bald, assistant professor of writing and digital media, received the New York University Dean's Dissertation Fellowship.

Alisa Kim Braithwaite, assistant professor of literature, received a Career Enhancement Fellowship for Junior Faculty from the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation. Professor Braithwaite worked on a manuscript that addresses Caribbean literature and the genre of science fiction/fantasy during her fellowship.

Esther Duflo, the Abdul Latif Jameel professor of poverty alleviation and development economics at MIT, and director of the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab, received a 2009 MacArthur Fellowship. She has also been named winner of the 2010 John Bates Clark Medal. Professor Duflo, whose influential research has prompted new ways of fighting poverty around the globe, is the second woman to be given the award, which ranks second only the Nobel Prize in prestige within the economics profession and is considered a reliable indicator of future Nobel consideration. The medal is awarded (now annually) to the American economist under the age of 40 who is judged to have made the most significant contribution to economic thought and knowledge.

Professor of philosophy Sally Haslanger, a scholar widely respected for her work on the metaphysics of gender and race, has received highest honors from two prestigious associations in philosophy. She has been named the 2011 Carus Lecturer, an honor presented biannually by the American Philosophical Association, and she has been selected as Distinguished Woman Philosopher of 2010 by the Society for Women in Philosophy.

David Jones, associate professor of the history and culture of science and technology, was named a MacVicar Faculty Fellow. The MacVicar Faculty Fellows Program was named to honor the life and contributions of Margaret MacVicar, professor of physical science and dean for undergraduate education at the time of her death in 1991. Dr. Jones has also received the 2010 Donald O'Hara Faculty Prize for Excellence in Teaching from Harvard Medical School.

Paul Joskow, the Elizabeth and James Killian professor of economics and management, received the 2009 United States Association for Energy Economics Adelman-Frankel Award for "unique and innovative contributions to the field of energy economics."

Guido Lorenzoni, the Pentti J.K. Kouri career development assistant professor of economics, received a 2009 Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellowship. It is awarded yearly to early-career scientists and scholars who show unique potential to make substantial contributions to their field.

Anne McCants, MacVicar Faculty Fellow and section head and professor of history, received the Elizabeth Topham Kennan Award, given periodically to an outstanding Mount Holyoke alumna who is an educator. The award honors the service given to the college, and to education in general, by former Mount Holyoke president Elizabeth Topham Kennan. Only the third recipient since the award's inception in 1995, Professor McCants received the Kennan Award on the occasion of her 25th college reunion.

Agustín Rayo, associate professor of philosophy, was awarded the Mellon Foundation's Burkhardt Residential Fellowship. The fellowship supports recently tenured scholars in the humanities and social sciences in the crucial years immediately following the granting of tenure, and provides potential leaders in their fields with the resources to pursue long-term, unusually ambitious projects.

The Organization of American Historians (OAH) named Merritt Roe Smith, Leverett Howell and William King Cutten professor of the history of technology, as a distinguished lecturer. The OAH Distinguished Lectureship Program features more than 350 historians who have made major contributions to the study of American history.

### **Fundraising**

New gifts and pledges for FY2010 totaled \$9,528,895. Some highlights included three substantial new gifts of endowment totaling \$1.25 million for MISTI, a \$200,000 foundation grant in the humanities for the Visualizing Cultures Project, and a substantial endowment pledge that brought the Robert M. Solow Professorship drive to a total of \$3 million gifts and pledges.

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

In AY2010, SHASS saw three retirements, three resignations, and nine new faculty hires. Ann F. Friedlaender professor Isabelle de Courtivron (Foreign Languages and Literatures), Ford International professor of history John Dower, and Elizabeth and James Killian professor of economics Paul Joskow retired from MIT. Three more faculty decided to leave MIT: Elting E. Morison professor of political science Stephen Ansolabehere and Arthur and Ruth Sloan professor of political science and economics James Snyder both moved to Harvard University; associate professor of political science Orit Kedar returned to Israel for family reasons. Three faculty members in the School were promoted to tenure this year, effective July 1, 2010: Adam Albright (Linguistics and Philosophy), Guido Lorenzoni (Economics), and Jay Scheib (Music and Theater Arts).

The School was successful in recruiting a total of nine new members to the faculty for AY2011, including the hire of a full professor in Political Science, Daniel Posner, who will join the School on November 1, 2010. Seven of the new hires will join the School effective July 1, 2010: one will be an associate professor without tenure in Writing and Humanistic Studies and the remaining six will be assistant professors in Anthropology, Economics, Foreign Languages and Literatures, History, Literature, and Political Science. The remaining new hire will join Economics as an assistant professor on July 1, 2011.

This year, the SHASS Council lost two longstanding heads: Robert M. Metcalfe professor of writing James Paradis was replaced by professor of science writing Thomas Levenson as head of the Program in Writing and Humanistic Studies; and Kenan Sahin distinguished professor of political science Charles Stewart III was replaced by Class of 1922 professor Richard M. Locke as head of the Political Science Department. Professor Paradis will serve as acting director of the Comparative Media Studies Program for AY2011.

**Deborah K. Fitzgerald**

**Kenan Sahin Dean**

**Professor of the History of Technology**

*More information about the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences is available at <http://shass.mit.edu/>.*