

Program in Media Arts and Sciences

Graduate Program

A total of 137 students—63 master’s candidates and 74 doctoral candidates—were enrolled in the [Program in Media Arts and Sciences](#) (MAS) graduate program during the 2010–2011 academic year. The MAS graduate student community included 26 women, 48 foreign students, and five individuals from underrepresented minority groups.

During the year, 48 advanced degrees were awarded (35 master’s and 13 doctorates). MAS received 663 applications to the graduate program and offered admission to 48 new students (including 13 women), a nine percent admissions rate. Fifty-two students (including all 13 women) enrolled, an 88 percent yield.

In addition to supervising MAS graduate students, MAS faculty and research staff collectively advised and supported more than 25 graduate students from other departments, including Architecture, Biological Engineering, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Mechanical Engineering, Materials Science and Engineering, and Physics. The program also enrolled students from the Harvard-MIT Division of Health Sciences and Technology (HST).

MAS offered 32 graduate subjects during the 2010–2011 year.

Student/Postdoctoral Fellows Honors and Awards

Leo Bonanni (Tangible Media Group, PhD ’11) received two awards for his Sourcemap project: the Gold Prize in the Korean Open Source Software World Challenge 2010 and a runner-up award in *Scientific American’s* World Changing Ideas video contest.

M. Ehsan Hoque (Affective Computing Group) received an Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Micro Grant in support of his project “Tell Me More: A Multi-Modal Virtual Platform to Help People with Social Phobia.”

Graduate student Natan Linder (Fluid Interfaces Group) won the Audi Tony Stark Innovation Challenge.

Doctoral students Ming Zher Poh (HST) and Daniel McDuff (Affective Computing Group) received a third-place award in the Center for Integration of Medicine and Innovative Technology Primary Healthcare Prize competition for their Cardiocam project.

Undergraduate Program

Students from the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) continued to represent the largest undergraduate presence at the Media Lab. More than 300 undergraduates from across the Institute participated in a wide variety of research projects, with many of these students pursuing their undergraduate theses under MAS faculty supervision. In addition, the MAS program offered six undergraduate subjects.

Now in its 13th year, the MAS alternative freshman-year program enrolled 24 students in 2010–2011. These students participated in weekly Media Lab tutorial/laboratory sessions connected with two core freshman subjects, pursued Media Lab UROP projects, and took two MAS undergraduate subjects on design and research, one of which is an option for satisfying part of the undergraduate Communication Requirement. The program has also turned out to be a successful “feeder” program for graduate students: the current MAS graduate student body includes many freshman-year program participants.

Faculty and Staff

New Appointments

Cesar Hidalgo was appointed as an assistant professor of media arts and sciences. Hidalgo received his PhD in physics from the University of Notre Dame. Prior to being hired he was an adjunct lecturer in public policy at Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government.

Neri Oxman was appointed as an assistant professor of media arts and sciences. Oxman received her PhD from MIT in June 2010.

Faculty Honors and Awards

Leah Buechley was named one of the “Top Women in Mobile Technology” by *LAPTOP* magazine.

Hiroshi Ishii was the 2010 recipient of the Funai Achievement Award, presented by the Forum on Information Technology under the auspices of the Funai Foundation for Information Technology.

Tod Machover won the 2010 World Technology Network Award for the Arts.

Pattie Maes was one of two women named to *GigaOM*’s 2010 list of the “Top 15 Mobilize Influencers.”

Ramesh Raskar received a Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) Young Faculty Award for his project “Looking Around Corners Using Transient Imaging,” which focused on creating an entirely new class of imaging devices and a novel theoretical framework for analysis of light transport at ultrashort time scales.

Mitchel Resnick was chosen by *Technology & Learning* magazine to be on its “100@30” list of the most influential people affecting the advancement of technology in education.

New Books

Frank Moss, *The Sorcerers and Their Apprentices: How the Digital Magicians of the MIT Media Lab Are Creating the Innovative Technologies That Will Transform Our Lives* (Crown Business, 2011)

Mitchel Resnick

Program Head

LEGO Papert Professor of Learning Research