Program in Writing and Humanistic Studies

The Program in Writing and Humanistic Studies (WHS) teaches MIT students the techniques, forms, and traditions of contemporary writing, media, and communication. WHS offers three undergraduate options leading to the Bachelor of Science in Writing: Creative Writing, Science Writing, and Digital Media. The Concentration in Writing establishes a course of study in fiction, prose nonfiction (including rhetoric), science writing, or digital media, offering engineering and science majors an opportunity to develop abilities that will play a key role in their professional careers. The Minor in Writing gives students the opportunity to work in one of the program's three areas while also exploring offerings from the program's core curriculum. Program faculty and lecturers include creative artists, scholars, journalists, and specialists in digital media and communication. Some faculty members have joint appointments in the Program in Science, Technology, and Society; the Department of Physics; the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science; the Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory (CSAIL); and the Comparative Media Studies (CMS) program.

WHS is organized into four academic groups that work in diverse ways at MIT: (1) the core curriculum offers Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (HASS) subjects and electives to undergraduates, including majors, minors, and concentrators; (2) the Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) outreach program works collaboratively throughout the Institute to bring communication instruction to undergraduate majors in every school and department; (3) the Writing and Communication Center provides help on request to undergraduates, graduate students, and all other members of the MIT community on papers, theses, proposals, fellowship and graduate school applications, job talks, and oral presentations; and (4) the one-year Graduate Program in Science Writing (GPSW) trains a highly selected group of students in the art and profession of writing about science and technology for the general public.

During the past year, 886 students enrolled in WHS subjects. These students included 10 majors, 10 minors, and 74 concentrators in writing for the HASS requirement. One of the program's graduates, Anna Waldman-Brown, has been awarded a Fulbright scholarship.

WAC programs brought writing instruction to almost 3,500 students in 29 departments and 139 subjects throughout the Schools of Science; Engineering; Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (SHASS); and Architecture and Planning. Writing and Communication Center staff assisted 2,030 clients (including 891 undergraduates, 741 graduate students, 130 postdoctoral associates, 101 alumni, 60 spouses, 20 faculty, 20 visiting scholars, and 48 special students), providing assistance with reports, papers, oral presentations, applications, articles for publication, proposals, books, and thesis projects. Additionally, 1,153 of these clients were non-native speakers of English. Clients had 4,373 consultations during the year. Finally, seven students received master's degrees from GPSW in September 2010. The applicant pool for the Class of 2012 was 61 and was extremely competitive. Eleven applicants were accepted and eight admitted, without the program having to turn to its waitlist.

As part of the Writers and Poetry Series at MIT, WHS hosted six speakers in AY2011, including Lewis Hyde who read from his new book, *Common as Air*, in which he takes

up the current notion of intellectual property and pursues it back to the Founding Fathers and forward to Bob Dylan. Other authors included American poet and novelist Fanny Howe; essayist Jerald Walker; poets Edward Barrett, William Corbett, and Eileen Myles; and autobiographer Kym Ragusa.

WHS launched the WHS Lunch Series in AY2011, in an attempt to bring work of its own faculty and lecturers closer to students, instructors, and staff. Adjunct professor and science fiction writer Joseph Haldeman presented on his art of writing. Adjunct professor Alan Lightman introduced his two new books in progress—Mr. g and Screening Room. Finally, Ralph Lombreglia presented a brief overview of The Trillion-node Network, a book in progress that he is authoring with two founders, Peter Lucas and Joseph Ballay, of the Pittsburgh-based company MAYA Design.

AY2011 marked the fourth year of the Purple Blurb Series, a program that presents events relevant to digital writing, broadly defined, and encourages readings and presentations of work that engages the computational and the literary. The spring 2011 events connected digital writing to the visual arts, the book arts, and adventure games. The first event was held in collaboration with the deCordova Museum, in Lincoln, MA, on the occasion of the *Drawing with Code* exhibit. Leah Buechley, of the MIT Media Lab; George Fifield, curator of the Boston Cyberarts Festival; John Cayley, from the Brown University Literary Arts program; and exhibiting artist Mark Wilson participated in the event, titled Computers and Creativity: The Intersection of Art and Technology. The second event featured MIT Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow Amaranth Borsuk presenting *Between Page and Screen: Digital, Visual, and Material Poetics.* The final series, *Adventuresome Creations: Interactive Fiction, Graphical Adventures, and Electronic Literature*, featured Brian Moriarty, creator of *Wishbringer*, *Trinity*, and *Loom* and professor of the practice at Worcester Polytechnic Institute; Clara Fernández-Vara, creator of *Rosemary* and *Symon* and postdoctoral researcher at the Singapore-MIT GAMBIT (Gamers, Aesthetics, Mechanics, Business, Innovation, and Technology) Game Lab; and Zuzana Husárová, creator of *Pulse* and Fulbright scholar in WHS.

Research and Publications of Faculty and Staff

Assistant professor Vivek Bald signed two book contracts: with Harvard University Press for *Bengali Harlem and the Hidden Histories of South Asian America*; and with New York University Press for the edited collection *The Sun Never Sets: South Asian Migrants in an Age of US Power*, with coeditors Miabi Chatterji, Sujani Reddy, and Manu Vimalassery.

Associate professor D. Fox Harrell signed a book contract with MIT Press for *Phantasmal Media: An Approach to Imagination, Computation, and Expression*. He also published two book chapters: "Style: A Computational and Conceptual Blending-based Approach," with Joseph Gogeun, *The Structure of Style: Algorithmic Approaches to Understanding Manner and Meaning*, Shlomo Argamon and Shlomo Dubnov, eds. (Springer-Verlag, 2010); and "A Journey Along the Borderland: A Critical Approach to Artificial Intelligence-based Literary Practice," with Jichen Zhu, *Arts: A Science Matter*, Lui Lam, ed. (World Scientific, 2011). Professor Harrell published the articles: "A Cultural Computing Approach to Interactive Narrative: The Case of the Living Liberia Fabric," in *Proceedings of the Fall 2010 Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence*

Symposium; "Computational Models of Narrative" (with Chris Gonzalez, Hank Blumenthal, Ayoka Chenzira, Natasha Powell, Nathan Piazza, and Michael Best, all of the Georgia Institute of Technology); "Designing Empowering and Critical Identities in Social Computing and Gaming," in *CoDesign International Journal of CoCreation in Design and the Arts* (November 2010); and "Phantasmal Fictions," in *American Book Review*, Joseph Tabbi, ed. (September/October 2010).

Professor Robert Kanigel completed the manuscript *The Land of the Young: Love and Language on an Irish Island*, submitted to the publishing group Knopf. He also released a new Kindle edition (2010) of his book *Vintage Reading: A Personal Tour of Some of the World's Best Books*.

Associate professor Helen Elaine Lee published "Pomegrnate" an excerpt from a manuscript of her novel *Life Without*, in *Solstice Literary Magazine*, Winter/Spring, 2010.

Professor Thomas Levenson published the article "Benjamin Franklin's Greatest Invention," *American History* (October 2010). Professor Levenson also published 184 posts at the Inverse Square Blog, and 44 posts at Balloon Juice.

Associate professor Nick Montfort published *Riddle & Bind* (Spineless Books, 2010). He also published "Sea and Spar Between," a poetry generator, with Stephanie Strickland, *Dear Navigator* (Winter 2010); "Toward a Theory of Interactive Fiction [IF]," *IF Theory Reader*, transcript in press (2011). In February 2011, Professor Montfort released *Curveship*, a Python framework that allows author/programmers and researchers to develop interactive fiction with interactive narrating. He participated in the "text jockey" performances (projecting words serially to accompany music) at Dance Technology and Circulations of the Social @ MIT on April 23; and at Beat Research at Enormous Room, Cambridge, MA on January 24.

Professor James Paradis coedited the volume *Victorian Science as Cultural Authority*, with Suzy Anger (Pickering and Chatto, 2011).

Professor Haldeman published the short story "Sleeping Dogs" in *Gateways*, a festschrift for Fredrik Pohl, Elizabeth Anne Hull, ed. (Tor Books, 2010); and the poem "At the Gainesville, FL, VA Hospital" in *Subtropics* (Winter/Spring, 2011). He published the following reprints: six short stories—"Out of Phase," *Before They Were Giants*, James L. Sutter, ed. (Paizo Publishing, 2010); "Time Piece" in *Citizens: Military Science Fiction by Military Veterans*, John Ringo and Brian M. Thomsen, eds. (Baen, 2010); "Tricentennial," for the Starship Sofia podcast (2010); "A Tangled Web" in *Nebula Awards Showcase*, Kevin J. Anderson, ed. (Tor Books, 2011); "More Than the Sum of His Parts," in *Lightspeed Magazine* (Prime Books, 2010); and "The Monster" in *Crucified Dreams*, Joseph R. Lansdale, ed. (Tachyon Publications, 2010). Professor Haldeman's novels reprinted in 2010–2011 were *Worlds*; *Worlds Apart*; *Worlds Enough and Time*; and *Marsbound* (Factoria de Ideas); *Forever Free* (Edhasa); *The Accidental Time Machine* (Yaniv Publishing, Ltd.); and *Starbound* in Recorded Books-audio (Mondadori, 2011). The novelette *Hero* was reprinted in *Sense of Wonder: A Century of Science Fiction*, Leigh Grossman, ed. (Swordsmith, 2011). Two of his speeches were reprinted: "The Three Cultures" from the Williamson Lecture 1992; and "Seventy-five Years-in-Publication: A Celebration," which was a speech, article, and part of

the Williamson Lecture 2003. Both speeches appear in *Thirty-five Years of the Jack Williamson Lectureship*, Patrice Caldwell, ed. (Haffner Press, 2011).

Senior lecturer Edward Barrett published the book of poems *Down New Utrecht Avenue* (Pressed Wafer Press, 2011), and *Holy Sonnets* (poetry and sculpture, in collaboration with Amanda Matthews.)

Lecturer Donald Unger published: "The Mask of Natural (or Nurtured) Masculinity" (May 2011); "W(h)ither Men?: A Review of the Evolution of Dad" (April 2011); "Nobody Can Have It All: It's Too Much to Carry" (January 2011); and a review of Fatherhood: Evolution and Human Paternal Behavior (July 2010).

Contributions to MIT through Academic Programs and Initiatives

WHS continues to provide instruction and support in writing and communication in its many contemporary manifestations—as journalistic and reflective medium, professional instrument, and art form. Key initiatives that WHS has supported include: (1) the MIT Communication Requirement, (2) the CMS program, and (3) the GPSW program, leading to a master of science (SM) degree.

As part of the Communication Requirement, WHS has revamped and expanded its WAC programs. The object of these outreach programs is to take communication instruction and evaluation into core subjects in science and engineering departments throughout the Institute. Directors Leslie Perelman and Suzanne Lane have expanded WAC teaching efforts in every department, including the MIT Sloan School of Management, and they have experimented extensively with innovative instructional approaches.

WHS also continues to expand its support of CMS undergraduate and graduate programs, in collaboration with the Foreign Languages and Literatures section and the Literature faculty. WHS faculty and lecturers currently working with CMS include Professors Paradis, Montfort, Harrell, and Bald, and Senior Lecturer Barrett, who teach a variety of digital media subjects jointly listed in WHS and CMS, and who provide additional advising and administrative support for CMS students.

The third WHS initiative continues with GPSW, which has graduated 10 classes and a total of 61 SM students. WHS graduates hold positions at the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers's *IEEE Spectrum*; MIT's *Technology Review*; Boston public television station WGBH's *NOVA*; *Psychology Today*; *Seed*; and the *Boston Globe*, among others, and they freelance for a wide variety of publications. Two of the graduates are expecting to release books in 2012, one has a book under contract, and another is an assistant professor at Bryn Mawr College.

Presentations, Grants, and Awards

Professor Bald was an invited discussant for a seminar paper by Yael Schacher, PhD candidate, Department of History, Harvard University, titled "Desertion, Deportation, and Asylum: Alien Seamen in US Ports, 1930s–1950s," Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston (November 2010). He was also an invited participant in the seminar "Weird Noises and Beautiful Sounds," which considered the essay "On Improvisation,

Temporality, and Embodied Experience," by Vijay Iyer, Trinity College, Hartford, CT (October 2010).

Professor Junot Díaz delivered readings at the following institutions: Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University; Hampshire College; Buena Vista University; George Washington University; Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute, Washington, DC; Bronx Community College; Davidson College; Westfield State College; Montclair University; *New Yorker* Festival, New York, NY; Lehman College; Stony Brook University; Ursinus College; Oakland University; Washington College; and New York University.

Professor Harrell received a $500,000 National Science Foundation (NSF) CAREER Award for "Computing for Advanced Identity Representation," and a $25,000 NSF award for "Identifying Synergies and Fostering Collaborations." He gave the following presentations: "Improvisation and Phantasmal Media—D. Fox Harrell, MIT, in Conversation with Alondra Nelson," Columbia University (April 26); "Improvisation as a Way of Life: A Symposium," panelist, Brown University (February 25); "The Gestural Narrative Interactive Expression (GeNIE) Project," National Endowment for the Humanities Digital Humanities Workshop, Harvard University (January 27); "Working Across Disciplines: Crafting Interdisciplinary Projects," moderator and presenter, Ford Foundation Fellows Conference, Irvine, CA (October 16); "Gesture, Rhetoric, and Storytelling: The Speakerly Interactive Narrative Project," project director's talk, Washington, DC (September 28); "The Imagination, Computation, and Expression Lab: Making Phantasmal Media," CMS Colloquium Series, MIT (September 23); NSF/National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) joint workshop "Identifying Synergies and Fostering Collaborations," principal investigator and executive committee member (September 15–16).

Professor Lee presented "Writing Gender in Creative Work About Prison," International Conference on Women and the Arts, Lisbon, Portugal (June 15–17). Professor Lee was also a finalist for the Rome Prize, American Academy of Arts and Letters (2010)

Professor Levenson gave the following presentations: "The Uses of the Past: History of Science as a Tool for Science Journalism," panel producer and moderator, World Conference of Science Journalists, Doha, Quatar (June 27); "Albert Einstein and the Nature of Genius," Einstein Exhibition Lecture Series, Coolture Media, Bogota, Columbia (May 27); "Tales of Disaster: Sense-making in a Digitally Connected World," summation talk, University of Wales Global Academy/MIT Geospatial Data Center, sponsored by Cybersecurity Summit, University of Wales (March 22); "Isaac Newton and the Counterfeiter: Greed, Crime, and the Birth of the Modern Idea of Money," Physics Division Colloquia, Argonne National Laboratory (March 11) and University of Texas (February 23); "Blogging and the Academy" and "eBooks and the Science Community," panel organizer and speaker, Science Online 2011 (January 16); and "Isaac Newton: Mathematician, Physicist, Alchemist… Cop?" MIT Physics Colloquium Series (October 4).

Professor Montfort gave the following presentations in AY2011: "Why Watson Can't Dance: Attempts at On-screen Dance in Popular Digital Media," Dance Technology and Circulations of the Social v2.0, MIT (April 21–23); and "Curveship: Adding Control of Narrative Style," International Conference on Computational Creativity (ICCC 2011),

Mexico City (April 27). Among Professor Montfort's invited talks were "The Digital Rearview Mirror," Texas Institute for Literary and Textual Studies Symposium: The Digital and the Human(ities), University of Texas at Austin (May 28); "Interactive Fiction and Curveship," Games for Social Change class, Tufts University (April 5); "Five Comments on the OuLiPo," Oulipolooza, Kelly Writers House, University of Pennsylvania (March 15); "Platform Studies, Material Computing, and the Atari VCS [Video Computer System]," History of Material Texts Workshop, University of Pennsylvania (March 14); "An Overview of Curveship," the IF Summit, PAX-East, Boston, MA (March 13); "Curveship: Interactive Narrating for Interactive Fiction," University of California (UC), Santa Cruz (January 11); "Line of Inquiry: Many Authors Explore Creative Computing Through a Short Program," UC Santa Cruz (January 10); "A One-line Key to Creative Computing," Fifth Mexican International Colloquium on Computational Creativity, Universidad Autonoma Metropolitana–Cuajimalpa and Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico (November 12); "The Novel: A Prognosis," with authors Daphne Kalotay and David Shields, Boston Book Festival, Boston Public Library (October 16); "Porting Adventure to Curveship," Tufts University (October 14); a talk on IF in English 391a, Yale University (September 29); "Community and Interactive Fiction," Electronic Literature as a Model of Creativity and Innovation in Practice Seminar, Bergen, Norway (September 20); and "Unlocking Creative Computing," Washington University (September 10). Professor Montfort was also part of "Re/Search: Art, Science, and Information Technology," a joint meeting of NSF and NEA, Arlington, VA (September 2010). He delivered the following readings: "Sea and Spar Between," with Stephanie Strickland, E-Poetry, The Squeaky Wheel, Buffalo, NY (May 17); digital poetry including ppg256 and, with Stephanie Strickland, "Sea and Spar Between," Dartmouth College (April 15); and "Riddle & Bind & Generators," UC Santa Cruz (January 12).

Professor Paradis chaired the plenary discussion "Unstable Platforms," Media in Transition Conference, MIT (May 2011).

Professor of the practice Marcia Bartusiak was awarded for her latest book, *The Day We Found the Universe*, the 2010 Davis Prize by the History of Science Society for the best history of science book written for a general audience. She was also awarded the 2010 Klumpke-Roberts Award by the Astronomical Society of the Pacific for "outstanding contributions to the public understanding and appreciation of astronomy." She delivered a keynote address at the New York Sectional Meeting of the American Physical Society, Hofstra University (October 2010), and addressed the Annual Meeting of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific, Boulder, CO (August 2010). Professor Bartusiak was invited to be a regular columnist for *Natural History* magazine.

Professor Haldeman received the Raymond Z. Gallun Lifetime Achievement Award from Island CONvention (I-CON), Stony Brook University. In AY2011, he gave four interviews, one reading, and held three panels at the World Science Fiction Convention, Reconstruction, Raleigh, NC (August). Professor Haldeman gave a talk at Bellamy Road Art Gallery, Melrose, FL, titled "Art, Science, and Science Fiction" (October). He read from his works, and participated at a panel and discussion at the World Fantasy Convention, Columbus, OH (October). In November, he was a part of the panels "Book to Film" and "The Technology of Writing," ICON Science Fiction Convention, Cedar Rapids, IA. Professor Haldeman delivered a lecture at the University of Massachusetts,

Amherst, on "Life and Work" (December). He participated on the panel "Quality versus Quantity" and read at the International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts, Orlando, FL (March). He was a participant on the panels "Collecting Over a Writer's Lifetime" and "Old Ways, New Ways," Nebula Awards Weekend of the Science Fiction Writers of America, Washington, DC (May).

Suzanne Lane, associate director of WAC, submitted a grant proposal, and received funding for, a set of pedagogical videos on teaching students how to do peer review. These videos will form resources that can be embedded in many MIT subjects, and posted on class stellar sites.

Leslie Perelman, director of WAC, gave the talk "Online Assessment 2.0: Breaking Boundaries," Conference on College Composition and Communication, Atlanta (April 2011). She also presented "Length, Score, and Time vs. Construct Validity in Holistically-graded Writing Assessments: The Case Against Automated Essay Scoring," Writing Research Across Borders II, George Mason University (February 2011). In November 2010, Dr. Perelman presented "From Aristotle to IMRaD [Introduction, Methods, Results, and Discussion]: How 'Teaching to Forms' Can Foster Critical Thinking in Science and Engineering," Third International Writing and Critical Thinking Conference: Crossing the Great Divide: Critical Thinking and Writing in the Majors, Quinnipiac University.

Lecturer Jane Connor received the Alumni Class Fund Award ($9,700) for the research project "Listening as Exploration: The Essence of Collaboration." She gave the talk "Speaking Well, or, 'If you gave a good talk, how would you know?'" Conference of Undergraduate Women in Physics (January 2011).

Lecturer Jane Kokernak participated on the panel (with WHS lecturers Neal Lerner, Marilee Ogren, and Leslie Roldan) "Teaching Scientific Writing through IMRaD: A Case Study of Course Development and Outcomes," Third International Writing and Critical Thinking Conference, Quinnipiac University (November 2010). She was also a recipient of the MIT Alumni Fund Grant (with chemical engineering professor Clark Colton), "Integrating Collaborative Technologies in Chemical Engineering Projects Laboratory" (2010–2011).

Lecturer Karen Pepper gave the talk "Getting Results from Biology Students," Third International Writing and Critical Thinking Conference: Crossing the Great Divide: Critical Thinking and Writing in the Majors, Quinnipiac University (November 2010). She also delivered two talks at the Annual Conference on the State of Higher Education of the American Association of University Professors, Washington, DC (June 2011) "Saving the Environment One Paragraph at a Time," and "Hot Sausage and Mustard: Putting Food Studies on the Undergraduate Menu."

Lecturer Susan Ruff was a coauthor for the $150,000 NSF grant "Mathematics Communication Space," principal investigator: mathematics professor Haynes Miller. She gave the talk "How to Prepare an Engaging Technical Presentation," Tufts University (March 8 and 15). Together with Violeta Ivanova and Professor Miller, she presented "Mathematical Communication Space: Resource for Educators," National Science Digital Library National Meeting, Washington, DC (November 1–3).

At MIT, Lecturer Ruff presented "Communication Instruction in the Department of Mathematics," with Professor Miller, Innovations in Communication Instruction: Lessons from Ten Years of the Communication Requirement, hosted by the Subcommittee on the Communication Requirement, for the MIT150 celebration (April 27). Lecturer Ruff and Dr. Ivanova gave a talk for the Singapore University of Technology and Design Initiative entitled "Creating a Collaborative Website," MIT (May 11). They also presented this talk for Technologies + Teaching Group, MIT (May 23).

Lecturer Unger gave the following presentations in AY2011: "Fatherhood Panel," TestoGenius Festival of Fatherhood, Manhattan Theatre Source, New York, NY (June); "The Problem of Maternal Gatekeeping," Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, Holyoke, MA (June); moderator for panel discussion on the film "The Evolution of Dad," New York City Dads Group, New York, NY (May); Panel on Humanist Parenting, Humanist Chaplaincy at Harvard University (March); "She Won't Let Me Parent: Dads and Maternal Gatekeeping," New England Fathering Conference, Newport, RI (March); discussion of men and media, Forest Hills Library, Queens, NY, and New York City Dad's Group, New York, NY (October); American Civil Liberties Union panel "Fathers and Family Law," Enoch Pratt Library, Baltimore, MD (October); discussion of men and media, Cape Cod Dads Group, Harwich, MA (August); discussion of humanist parenting, Humanists Association of San Diego, CA (July); discussion of men and media, Cafe Libertalia, San Diego, CA (July); panel discussion on alternative parenting, Modern Times Books, San Francisco, CA (July).

Lecturer Andrea Walsh gave a talk titled "Gender Justice in 19th Century America: Seneca Falls: The Declaration of Sentiments and Resolutions," Teaching American History Program, Bristol Community College (March 24).

Service to the Institute

Professor Bald served as minor advisor during spring 2011. He also served on the Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship selection committee.

Professor Harrell served on the CMS admissions committee and on the WHS thesis guidelines committee. He reviewed graduate student applications in CSAIL and participated in faculty research presentations and meetings during CSAIL Visit Day. He took part in the World Festival of Black Arts and Culture, organized by the Robert R. Taylor Network at MIT, Dakar, Senegal (December 10–31). Professor Harrell was a reviewer for the MIT Press Outside MIT. He was a senior program committee member at ICCC 2011, and a programming committee member at ICCC 2010. He served on the board of directors for the Electronic Literature Organization. For NSF, Professor Harrell served as a review panelist for the Division of Information and Intelligent Systems (2011), and the CreativeIT [Information Technology] Grant (2010).

Professor Lee was a member of the SHASS educational advisory committee and the faculty newsletter board, and served as major advisor in WHS. She was a sponsor and co-organizer of the Night Kite Revival tour, Spoken Word and Slam Poetry event for the MIT community, (October 12).

Professor Kanigel served on the WHS thesis guidelines committee and on the GPSW admissions committee. He was part of the Committee on the Undergraduate Program Subcommittee on the HASS Requirement, chaired by professor Jeffrey Ravel. He is a member of the Boston Biography Group; National Association of Science Writers; Society for the History of Technology; and Biographers International Organization. Professor Kanigel was an outside reader for Johns Hopkins University Press for a publication of essays by John Barth.

Professor Levenson served as head of WHS and director of GPSW. He also served on the Subcommittee on the Communication Requirement, and on the ad hoc group working on the proposed reorganization in the Humanities. Professor Levenson consulted with Rice University on the development of an approach to writing and communication instruction/requirements, and he reviewed science and technology reports for the public radio program *The World*.

Professor Kenneth Manning chaired the promotion cases for Professor Harrell and professor David Kaiser. He also chaired a panel of judges for the Watson and Helen Davis Book Prize in the History of Science, History of Science Society.

Professor Montfort was on the PhD committee of Jeffrey Orkin, Media Arts and Sciences. He was also part of the junior search committee in CMS/WHS, and served on the CMS graduate admissions committee. He was a director for the conference "Media in Transition 7—Unstable Platforms: The Promise and Peril of Transition," MIT (May 13-15). He was a publicity chair at ICCC 2011, Mexico City (April 27–29). Professor Montfort continues as president of the Electronic Literature Organization. He served as concentration advisor in WHS, and is a mentor for WHS junior faculty and two Mellon postdoctoral fellows.

Professor Paradis served as interim director for CMS in 2010–2011. He also served on the equal opportunities committee for SHASS, the graduate admissions committee for CMS, and the appointment committee for director of the MIT Center for Civic Media. Professor Paradis was a chair of the junior search committee in CMS/WHS, and was a participant in the Knight Foundation grant renewal process for the Center for Civic Media.

Professor Bartusiak served as executive director of GPSW and was a managing editor for *Scope*, its student publication. She chaired the GPSW admissions committee, and served as GPSW internship coordinator and as graduate as well as undergraduate thesis advisor. Professor Bartusiak also served as a judge for the Ilona Karmel Writing Prizes, WHS, and as a judge for the Gemant Award, American Institute of Physics. She is on the editorial advisory board for *Astronomy* magazine and assisted the publisher Houghton Mifflin Harcourt in writing, for a high school physics textbook in development, a profile of her career as a science writer on physics. She was an invited speaker for the science communication retreat at Endicott House for MIT's Interdisciplinary Quantum Information Science and Engineering program (April 23).

Senior Lecturer Barrett served on the CMS undergraduate curriculum committee.

Dr. Lane spearheaded the launch of and authored a majority of articles in a new pedagogical website for WAC. The site is now live and fully functioning as a resource on communications instruction to the wider MIT community. She is also responsible for two successful WAC Independent Activities Period workshops for MIT faculty: "Why We Cite: Teaching the Purposes and Practices of Source Use," and "Responding to Student Writing." The workshop "Why We Cite" was especially well attended and well received.

Lecturer Jennifer Craig hosted a group of undergraduate students from Universidad de Quintana Roo in Cozumel, Mexico, for an educational visit.

Lecturer Marilyn Levine served on the 2011 Boit Essay Prize Committee for the Ilona Karmel Writing Prizes, which are awarded by WHS. She also critiqued project talks given by graduate students in a seminar directed by Carolina Jones, director of MIT's History, Theory, and Criticism of Architecture and Art program. In spring 2011, she held a workshop in effective grant writing at the Center for Ultracold Atoms, in MIT's Center for Theoretical Physics.

Lecturer Unger served on the 2011 Boit Essay Prize Committee for the Ilona Karmel Writing Prizes, which are awarded by WHS.

Lecturer Walsh served as editor of *Angles 2010*, an annual online magazine of exemplary writing from MIT first-year writing courses. She served as a chair on the 2011 Louis Kampf Writing Prize Committee for WGS, as well as on the 2011 Boit Essay Prize Committee for the Ilona Karmel Writing Prizes, which are awarded by WHS. Dr. Walsh was a freshman advisor for the Program in Women's and Gender Studies and a lecturer representative on its AY2011 steering committee.

Personnel

Sasha Costanza-Chock was hired as an assistant professor of civic media, starting AY2012. Jessie Stickgold-Sarah was hired as lecturer I for the communication-intensive in the major instruction within the WAC group. Andrea Volpe was hired as lecturer for the communication-intensive in the humanities advisor role in the WAC group. Professor Bartusiak was appointed as professor of the practice, effective in June. Lecturers Ruff, Harlan Breindel, and Leslie Roldan were promoted to lecturer II, starting July 1, 2011. WHS welcomed its second Mellon postdoctoral fellow, Gretchen Henderson.

In AY2011, women represented 65% of WHS's total teaching staff and 20% of its core faculty. Members of underrepresented minorities accounted for 12% of total staff and 60% of core faculty. Four of the program's core faculty—an untenured assistant professor, an untenured associate professor, a tenured associate professor, and one full professor—are African Americans, one assistant professor is an Indian American, and one full professor is a Dominican American.

Thomas Levenson
Program Head
Professor of Science Writing
Professor of Scientific and Technical Communication