

School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences

The [School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences \(SHASS\)](#), the third-largest school at MIT (after Engineering and Science), employs a teaching faculty comparable in size to that of most liberal arts colleges and plays a number of important roles at MIT. Among other functions, the school:

- Offers 17 undergraduate major programs and 30 undergraduate minor programs
- Engages more than 10,500 undergraduate students and almost 1,900 graduate students each year in Anthropology; Comparative Media Studies; Economics; Global Languages; History; Linguistics; Literature; Music; Philosophy; Political Science; Science, Technology, and Society (STS); Theater Arts; Women's and Gender Studies; and Writing
- Supports five doctoral programs in Economics, Linguistics, Philosophy, Political Science, and History, Anthropology, and Science, Technology, and Society; according to QS World University Rankings, the Departments of Economics and Linguistics are currently ranked No. 1 in the world
- Provides over 500 subjects toward the undergraduate Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences requirement, an eight-class portion of the General Institute Requirement
- Operates the MIT International Science and Technology Initiatives, MIT's pioneering international education program, which matches students with internship, teaching, and research opportunities abroad

Undergraduate Education

The SHASS faculty are uniquely involved in the intellectual development of all MIT undergraduates. Although students do not all major in humanities disciplines, every student must take a minimum of eight subjects in the humanities, arts, and social sciences. Undergraduates who want 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.

As the interests of students admitted to MIT continue to diversify, the school's role in the mainstream education of scientists and engineers becomes ever 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 members' educational mission is reflected in the high-ranked teaching evaluations received by our instructors and the educational innovations that emanate from the various faculties.

The SHASS Education Advisory Committee has been charged with considering the full range of issues related to undergraduate education in our school. This past year, the committee was chaired by Professor William Broadhead (History). The other committee members were Professors Manduhai Buyandelger (Anthropology), Ben Schneider (Political Science), and Teppei Tamamoto (Political Science), as well as students Madeline Holtz '22 (Chemistry and Comparative Media Studies) and Anna Aldins '22 (Mathematics and Music). SHASS academic administrator Andrea Wirth served as an ex officio member.

In September 2020, the school held its eighth annual TOUR de SHASS, a student fair designed to give a lightning tour of the department, program, and section offerings. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the event was held online. All SHASS academic programs participated, and a significant portion of information about the departments was made available online, outside of the immediate scope of the event.

As part of the Campus Preview Weekend activities in April 2021, SHASS hosted a set of “lightning talks” called a Taste of SHASS, also held online because of Covid-19 restrictions. Eight faculty members gave five-minute presentations about their research projects, with discussions afterwards. This format allowed greater participation from prospective students from around the world, and we had over 100 students in attendance.

Undergraduate Enrollment Statistics: Recent Trends

Total enrollment in all undergraduate SHASS subjects dropped to 10,517 in AY2021 (11,233 in AY2020, 10,742 in AY2019, 10,699 in AY2018). It is suspected that this was due to Covid-19 and a greater number of students taking a leave of absence. The number of undergraduate SHASS subjects offered was 518 (545 in AY2020, 511 in AY2019, 515 in AY2018). The three fields with the largest overall enrollments continue to be Economics (2,064, up from 2,023 in AY2020), Global Languages (1,981, down from 2,390 in AY2020), and Music (1,336, down from 1,564 in AY2020). The next highest enrollments were in Philosophy (762), Political Science (759), Theater Arts (740), and Writing (713).

Enrollment in Subjects Offered by SHASS Fields, AY2021

Field	Undergraduate subjects (count)	Undergraduate enrollment (count)	Graduate subjects (count)	Graduate enrollment (count)
Anthropology	15	310	4	50
Comparative Media Studies	42	545	35	335
Economics	31	2,064	68	1,762
Global Languages	125	1,981	36	649
History	49	683	5	39
Linguistics	12	465	22	253
Literature	57	658	-	-
Music	67	1,336	5	45
Philosophy	24	762	11	91
Political Science	41	759	38	448
Science, Technology, and Society	27	618	17	195
Theater Arts	40	740	4	8
Women’s and Gender Studies	26	426	5	10
Writing	45	713	6	82
Total	518	10,517	149	1,883

Notes: These final enrollments are for subjects offered by departments, programs and sections in the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences at the end of the Fall 2020, IAP 2021, and Spring 2021 semesters.

In the case of joint and meets-with subject clusters, enrollment numbers are calculated by the total number of students in the class, regardless of which subject number they signed up under. Totals are calculated by master subjects and will not match the totals for each column (which count jointly listed subjects in each of the fields involved).

In the few cases where subjects have two undergraduate “meets with” numbers in the same field and category enrollments are counted twice—once under each subject number. Very few subjects have two subject numbers in the same field, so the effect is minimal.

The numbers shown are for undergraduate and graduate subjects, excluding only subjects that are scheduled on an individual basis, such as theses and UROPs.

Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Concentrations

In AY2021, students completed 1,194 concentrations in Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (HASS) fields (1,356 in AY2020, 1,296 in AY2019, 1,243 in AY2018). Once again, Global Languages and Economics led in the number of completed HASS concentrations. In AY2021, 266 students completed concentrations in Global Languages (301 in AY2020) and 254 students completed concentrations in Economics (268 in AY2020). The third most popular HASS concentration field was Music, with 129 completed concentrations (177 in AY2020). The next most popular concentrations were Philosophy (85), Political Science (83), Theater Arts (58), and Comparative Media Studies (47).

Concentrations in School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences as of June 2021

SHASS concentration field	Active concentrations (count)	Completed concentrations (count)
African and African Diaspora Studies	13	4
American Studies	4	1
Ancient and Medieval Studies	15	12
Anthropology	46	25
Asian and Asian Diaspora Studies	36	26
Comparative Media Studies	93	47
Computing and Society	4	1
Development Economics	12	4
Economics	389	254
Education	12	6
Ethics	16	8
Global Languages	414	266
History	39	20
Latin American and Latino/a Studies	6	5
Legal Studies	0	0
Linguistics	52	34
Literature	52	34
Middle Eastern Studies	5	1
Music	221	129
Philosophy	132	85
Political Science	119	83
Religious Studies	5	2
Russian and Eurasian Studies	5	3
Science, Technology, and Society	46	31
Special Concentration	8	4
Theater Arts	101	58
Women's and Gender Studies	40	26
Writing	55	25
Total	1,940	1,194

Global Language Concentraions Breakdown as of June 2021

Concentration fields	Active concentrations (count)	Completed concentrations (count)
Chinese	75	50
English Language Studies	10	6
French	74	43
German	25	12
Japanese	71	54
Other Languages	22	12
Portuguese	7	4
Russian	12	9
Spanish	108	68
Studies in International Literatures and Cultures	8	6
Theory of Languages	2	2
Global Languages Total	414	266

Undergraduate Majors

Strong interest in second majors in SHASS continues. AY2021 saw an increase to 370 active undergraduate majors in SHASS fields, including both primary and secondary degrees (368 in AY2020, 340 in AY2019, 264 in AY2018). Of these, 105 students were awarded majors in SHASS fields (102 in AY2020, 74 in AY2019, 55 in AY2018). The most awarded majors were in Computer Science, Economics, and Data Science (29), Music (14), Economics (13), and Mathematical Economics (13). For the first time in recent memory, all fields had at least one active major.

All Enrolled School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Undergraduate Majors by Academic Year, AY2011–AY2021

Year	Economics all (primary only)	Humanities all (primary only)	Linguistics and philosophy all (primary only)	Political science all (primary only)	Total all (primary only)
2010–2011	156 (95)	75 (33)	17 (4)	40 (19)	281 (151)
2011–2012	125 (72)	66 (23)	19 (9)	26 (16)	236 (120)
2012–2013	109 (72)	65 (31)	19 (11)	24 (15)	217 (129)
2013–2014	91 (58)	59 (31)	24 (17)	15 (10)	189 (116)
2014–2015	73 (55)	74 (28)	24 (12)	14 (6)	185 (101)
2015–2016	63 (30)	79 (34)	23 (10)	17 (7)	182 (81)
2016–2017	76 (27)	86 (33)	18 (10)	14 (7)	194 (77)
2017–2018	151 (52)*	76 (30)	26 (10)	11 (4)	264 (96)
2018–2019	194 (103)*	106 (38)	30 (12)	10 (4)	340 (157)
2019–2020	223 (129)*	106 (29)	23 (9)	16 (7)	368 (174)
2020–2021	234 (121)*	94 (36)	24 (9)	18 (7)	370 (173)

Note: Figures in parentheses are from the Registrar's "Y" Report as of October of the fall term and do not include non-primary degrees or second majors. Figures not in parentheses were calculated in June, after Commencement, and include non-primary degrees, second majors, majors shared between schools, and any majors that were declared between October and June.

*Includes majors in Course 6-14 Computer Science, Economics, and Data Science.

School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Undergraduate Majors Breakdown by Field

Majors	All active majors*	Majors awarded*
Anthropology	1	0
Comparative Media Studies	14	4
Computer Science, Economics, and Data Science	166	29
Economics	35	13
Global Languages	1	1
History	2	1
Humanities	7	2
Humanities and Engineering	12	4
Humanities and Science	9	3
Linguistics	12	2
Literature	6	1
Mathematical Economics	33	13
Music	22	14
Philosophy	12	3
Political Science	18	6
Science, Technology, and Society	1	1
Theater Arts	9	3
Writing	10	5
Total	370	105

*Includes students who graduated in September 2020, February 2021, and June 2021

Minors

SHASS oversees all HASS minors (including those in departments outside of SHASS). The number of HASS minors awarded in AY2021 remains amazingly consistent at 168 (169 in AY2020, 168 in AY2019, 168 in AY2018). The HASS minors awarded to members of the Class of 2021 were in 28 fields. The three most-awarded minors were Economics (33, up from 31 in AY2020), Music (27, down from 30 in AY2020), and Global Languages (19, down from 30 in AY2020), which is a combination of minors in Chinese, French, German, Japanese, and Spanish.

School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Minors as of June 2021

Field	All active minors*	Minors awarded*
African and African Diaspora Studies	4	2
Ancient and Medieval Studies	3	3
Anthropology	2	2
Applied International Studies	4	2
Art, Culture and Technology	2	1
Asian and Asian Diaspora Studies	5	4
Chinese	17	7
Comparative Media Studies	5	3
Economics	55	33
French	13	4
German	8	0
History	3	1
History of Architecture, Art, and Design	1	1
International Development	1	1
Japanese	18	7
Latin American and Latino/a Studies	4	2
Linguistics	9	6
Literature	14	11
Middle Eastern Studies	0	0
Music	42	27
Philosophy	1	1
Political Science	18	14
Public Policy	22	10
Russian and Eurasian Studies	1	1
Science, Technology, and Society	5	2
Spanish	15	1
Theater Arts	10	7
Urban Studies and Planning	6	3
Women's and Gender Studies	11	8
Writing	13	4
Total	312	168

*Includes September 2020, February 2021, and June 2021 graduates.

Graduate Education

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, many departments saw far smaller incoming classes of graduate students. In AY2021, there were a total of 313 active majors in graduate SHASS fields (318 in AY2020, 327 in AY2019, 330 in AY2018). Of these, 82 students were awarded graduate majors in SHASS fields (78 in AY2020, 69 in AY2019, 53 in AY2018). Among these students, 22 were awarded the doctor of philosophy in Economics, nine in Political Science, five in Philosophy, four in Linguistics, and two in History, Anthropology, and Science, Technology and Society (HASTS). Also, among the graduate majors, seven students were awarded the master of science in Comparative Media Studies and six were awarded the master of science in Science Writing.

All Enrolled School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Graduate Majors by Academic Year, AY2011–AY2021

Year	Economics	HASTS*	Linguistics and philosophy	Political science	Comparative media studies	Science writing	Total
2010–2011	119	28	68	57	3	7	282
2011–2012	133	27	66	56	16	8	306
2012–2013	123	31	70	60	21	9	314
2013–2014	125	35	73	65	18	8	324
2014–2015	129	31	76	65	19	8	328
2015–2016	130	36	81	65	18	7	337
2016–2017	130	32	81	66	18	8	335
2017–2018	127	30	80	69	16	8	330
2018–2019	119	33	78	73	16	8	327
2019–2020	122	30	72	70	16	8	318
2020–2021	117	32	73	70	14	7	313

Note: Figures are from the Registrar's "Y" Report as of October of the previous year.

*History, Anthropology, and Science, Technology, and Society

School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Graduate Majors Breakdown by Field

Majors	Awarded*
Comparative Media Studies Master of Science	7
Economics Master of Science	22
Linguistics Master of Science	4
Political Science Master of Science	1
Science Writing Master of Science	6
Master of Science Total	40
Economics Doctor of Philosophy	22
HASTS Doctor of Philosophy	2
Linguistics Doctor of Philosophy	4
Philosophy Doctor of Philosophy	5
Political Science Doctor of Philosophy	9
Doctor of Philosophy Total	42

*Includes students who graduated in September 2020, February 2021, and June 2021

Honors and Awards Granted to Graduate and Undergraduate Majors

The following students were inducted into Phi Beta Kappa in 2021: Paolo Adaja (SB in Economics), Boluwatife Akinola (SB in Economics), Matthew Cameron (SB in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science [EECS] and Linguistics and Philosophy), Fiona Chen (SB in Economics), Daniel Dangond (SB in EECS and Comparative Media Studies), Aidan Faustina (SB in Physics and Linguistics and Philosophy), Rian Flynn

(SB in Physics and Music and Theater Arts [MTA]), Sebastian Franjou (SB in EECS and MTA), Sophie Rose Herscovici (SB in Economics), Aditya Jog (SB in Political Science and Biology), Amy Kim (SB in Economics and Mathematics), Melissa Kriezis (SB in Mechanical Engineering and Economics), Daniel Landez (SB in Architecture and MTA), Dexin Li (SB in Economics and Mathematics), Joanna Lin (SB in Biology and Global Studies and Languages), Amber Lu (SB in Economics and Mathematics), Faraz Masroor (SB in Economics and Mathematics), Tuomas Oikarinen (SB in EECS and Linguistics and Philosophy), Tommie Reerink (SB in Mathematics and MTA), Caleb Rollins (SB in Economics and Mathematics), Azzo Seguin (SB in Writing and Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Science), Vaibhavi Shah (SB in Biological Engineering and Science, Technology, and Society), Gabriel Terrasa (SB in Mechanical Engineering and MTA), Madeline Wong (SB in EECS and MTA), Whitney Zhang (SB in Economics), and Michael Zhao (SB in Economics).

Additional honors and awards are listed below.

2021 Fulbright Fellowships: Andrea Shinyoung Kim '21 (SM Comparative Media Studies), Tony Terrasa '21 (SB Mechanical Engineering and Music)

2021 Marshall Scholar: Marla Evelyn Odell '21 (Computer Science, Economics, and Data Science)

2021 Knight-Hennessy Scholar: Claire Lazar Reich '17 (SB Mathematics and Economics)

2021 Schwarzman Scholarship: Francesca Macchiavello Cauvi '21 (SB Computer Science, Economics, and Data Science)

2021 Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowship for New Americans: Fiona Chen '21 (SB in Mathematics and Economics)

2021 Burchard Scholars: Prosser Cathey '23 (Mathematical Economics and Political Science), Claire Cheng '22 (Computer Science and Engineering and Music), Amelia Dogan '23 (Urban Science and Planning with Computer Science and Humanities: American Studies), Rujul Gandhi '22 (Linguistics and Philosophy and EECS), Stacy Godfreedy-Igwe '22 (Mechanical Engineering and Humanities: African and African Diaspora Studies), Ananya Gurumurthy '23 (Economics), Emily Huang '22 (EECS and Political Science), David Spicer '23 (Political Science and Philosophy), Peter Tone Choza '22 (Music and Theater Arts and Computer Science and Engineering)

Robert A. Boit Prize (Poetry): Sophia Cohen '21, Third Prize (Mathematics and Writing)

Boit Manuscript Prize-Fiction: Nailah Smith '22, Second Prize (EECS and Writing)

Boit Manuscript Prize-Poetry: Nailah Smith '22, Second Prize (EECS and Writing)

Alan Brody Prize in Theater Arts: Aidan Driscoll '21 (SB in Physics and Music and Theater Arts)

Chamber Music Performance Awards: Geoffrey Kocks (Economics, G)

Isabelle de Courtivron Writing Prize: Eileen Liu '24, First Prize (Computer Science, Economics, and Data Science), Laura Rosado '22, Second Prize (Mechanical Engineering and Writing)

The Edward S. Darna Award in Theater Arts: Montserrat Garza '22 (EECS and Music and Theater Arts)

DeWitt Wallace Prize for Science Writing for the Public: Isabelle Yen '21, First Prize (SB in Computer Science, Economics, and Data Science and Business Analytics)

The Joseph D. Everingham Award for Theater Arts: Rian Flynn '21 (SB in Physics and Music and Theater Arts), Daniel Landez '21 (SB in Architecture and Music and Theater Arts)

The Rebecca Blevins Faery Prize for Autobiographical Essay: Nailah Smith '22, First Prize (EECS and Writing)

Graduate Student Council Teaching Award: Laura Zhang (Economics, G)

History Undergraduate Writing Prize: Chanita Tubthong '21 (SB in Physics and Humanities: Ancient and Medieval Studies)

King Prize for Writing Science Fiction: Sarah Knopf '22, First Prize (Humanities and Science), Sophia Cohen '21, Second Prize (Mathematics and Writing)

S. Klein Prize (Scientific Writing): Rodrigo Ochigame (History, Anthropology, and Science, Technology and Society [HASTS], G)

The Lowell Lindgren Prize for Musical Scholarship: Gyuna Kim '21 (SB in Chemistry and Biology and Music)

Philip Loew Memorial Award for Creative Accomplishment in Music: Melissa Klein '21 (SB in Mechanical Engineering and Music), Madeline Wong '21 (SB in EECS and Music)

Everett Longstreth Jazz Awards: Kevin Costello '21 (SB in Mathematics and Music)

Ronald E. McNair Scholarship Award: Sebastian Franjou '21 (SB in Music and EECS)

Richard and Jody Nordlof Awards for the MIT Wind Ensemble: Jack Bouhanna '21 (SB in Electrical Science and Engineering and Music)

Obermayer Prize for Writing for the Public: Robert Davis '21 (SM in Science Writing)

Obermayer Prize for Writing on the History of Innovation (Undergraduate): Eliza Khokhar '21, First Prize (SB in Computer Science, Economics, and Data Science; SM in Finance), Isabelle Yen '21, Second Prize (SB in Computer Science, Economics, and Data Science and Business Analytics)

Obermayer Prize for Writing on the History of Innovation (Graduate): Michelle Spektor (HASTS, G)

Benjamin Siegel Writing Prize in Science, Technology, and Society: Michelle Spektor (History, Anthropology, and Science, Technology and Society, G), Marc Aidinoff (HASTS, G)

The Louis Sudler Prize in the Arts: Sebastian Franjou '21 (SB in Music and EECS)

Gregory Tucker Memorial Prize for Music and Theater: Jack Bouhanna '21 (SB in Electrical Science and Engineering and Music), Aaron Makikalli '21 (SB in Aerospace Engineering and Music), Tommie Reerink '21 (SB in Mathematics and Music)

Laya and Jerome B. Wiesner Student Art Award: Kevin Costello '21 (SB in Mathematics and Music), Rian Flynn '21 (SB in Physics and Music and Theater Arts), Gabriel Tony Terrasa '21 (SB in Mechanical Engineering and Music)

UROP (Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program) Outstanding Mentor Award-Graduate Student: Crystal Lee (HASTS, G)

Diversity Efforts

The school continues to make diversity a priority, with Dean Melissa Nobles overseeing these efforts.

Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the SHASS Diversity Predoctoral Fellowship Program was put on hold for the 2021 academic year. The future remains uncertain, but we hope to reinstate the program next year. This program recruits promising PhD students from a wide range of backgrounds who can contribute to the diversity of SHASS and the higher education community. These fellowships support graduate scholars for a nine-month appointment at MIT that generally runs from September through May. They offer an opportunity for scholars who plan a career in higher education.

Honors and Awards

MIT SHASS announced six Research Fund recipients for 2021: Charlotte Brathwaite, associate professor in theater; Heather Hendershot, professor of comparative media studies; Andreas Karatsolis, associate director of writing, rhetoric, and professional communication; Clapperton Mavhunga, professor of science, technology, and society (STS); Tobias Salz, Castle Krob Career Development Assistant Professor of Economics; and Ken Urban, senior lecturer in theater.

The book *Good Economics for Hard Times*, by Abhijit Banerjee (Ford Foundation International Professor of Economics) and Esther Duflo, (Abdul Latif Jameel Professor of Poverty Alleviation and Development Economics), and the book *The Narrow Corridor*, co-authored by Daron Acemoglu (Institute Professor in Economics), were named among the best books of 2020 by *Foreign Affairs*.

Other honors and awards include the following:

- Stephen Morris was named the inaugural Peter A. Diamond Professor of Economics and he was elected to the National Academy of Sciences.
- Catherine Clark, associate professor of history and French studies, won the prestigious Laurence Wylie Prize for her book *Paris and the Cliché of History*.

- Daron Acemoglu was honored with the MIT Committed to Caring Award. In addition, he was elected to the American Philosophical Society.
- Eden Medina, associate professor in the STS program, was selected as a 2020–2021 Radcliffe Fellow.
- Tara Roberts, an Open Documentary Lab Fellow, was named a 2020–2021 National Geographic Storytelling Fellow.
- Amy Finkelstein, the John and Jennie S. MacDonald Professor of Economics, was named a Corresponding Fellow of the British Academy.
- Six SHASS faculty received a 2020 Teaching with Digital Technology Award: Malick Ghachem, associate professor of history; Mara Gubar, associate professor of literature; Stefan Helmreich, Elting E. Morison Professor of Anthropology; Graham Jones, professor of anthropology; Maria Khotimsky, senior lecturer in Russian; and Isadora Nicholas, part-time lecturer in French.
- Erik Lin-Greenberg, assistant professor of political science, was named to the National Security and Foreign Policy LGBTQIA+ Out Leaders List 2020.
- David Autor, Ford Professor of Economics, was awarded a grant from Washington Center for Equitable Growth. Autor also received the 25th Anniversary Special Recognition Heinz Award.
- Anne McCants, professor of history, received the Hughes Prize for Excellence in Teaching Economic History.
- Carla LynDale Bishop, documentarian, received the MIT and BLK Public Media Fellowship.
- Fotini Christia, Ford International Professor in the Social Sciences, was named director of the Sociotechnical Systems Research Center.
- Kathleen Hicks PhD '10 was selected to lead President Biden's Department of Defense Agency Review Team.
- In Song Kim, associate professor of political science, received the 2021 Levitan Prize.
- Nazli Choucri, professor of political science, and Colin Philips, PhD '96 in linguistics, were elected as Fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.
- Anna Mikusheva, Castle-Krob Career Development Associate Professor of Economics, was honored with the MIT Committed to Caring Award.
- Moya Bailey, Visiting Scholar 2020–2021 in Women's and Gender Studies, was honored with the McGannon Book Award for her book *Hashtag Activism*.
- Esther Duflo was named as chair of new French Fund for Innovation in Development. In addition, she was appointed to Economic Advisory Council of Tamil Nadu.

- *Faces of Souls*, an album by The Aardvark Ensemble, which includes Mark Harvey, senior lecturer in music, was honored by New York Jazz Recording.
- Joseph Borkowski, global languages instructional technologist, received an Infinite Mile Award from MIT Information Systems and Technology.
- Ivy Li '20 was awarded the 2020 Louis Kampf Writing Prize.
- Helen Elaine Lee, director of the Program in Women's and Gender Studies and professor of fiction writing, won a Dr. Martin Luther King Leadership Award.
- Kelcey Gibbons, PhD student in HASTS, became the first recipient of the MIT Shapiro Fellowship.
- Joshua Bennett, a 2015 pre-doctorate in MIT literature, received the Whiting Award for Nonfiction and Poetry.
- Six SHASS faculty members were awarded the 2021 James and Ruth Levitan Teaching Prize, including Eric Lin-Greenberg; Kenda Mutongi, professor of history; Sara Ellison, senior lecturer in economics; Masami Ikeda-Lamm, lecturer in Japanese; and Maria Khotimsky.
- Robert Townsend, Elizabeth and James Killian Professor of Economics, was named a Distinguished Fellow of the American Economic Association.
- Robin Wolfe Scheffler, associate professor of STS, received the Sydney Brenner Fellowship.
- Edmund Bertschinger, professor of physics, received the Baker Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching.
- Jonathan Gruber, Ford Professor of Economics, won the MITx Prize for his Macroeconomics course.
- Helena Belío-Apaolaza, lecturer in Spanish, and Maria Khotimsky won Teaching with Digital Technology Awards.

Fundraising

In FY2021, new gifts and pledges to the school totaled \$31,059,700. Two highlights were a \$4 million gift for an endowed faculty chair in the History of Science; and more than \$2 million in funding from individuals and foundations for Political Science Professor Charles Stewart's Healthy Elections Project (in partnership with Stanford University) to assess and promote best practices for conducting elections safely and with integrity during the Covid-19 crisis.

Not reflected in the new gifts and pledges were some notable gifts to the music building construction project totaling \$12,693,154.

Renovations

The Music Building project is moving forward. We broke ground on construction, with a target completion date of 2024. The new building W18 will house performance, rehearsal, and recording spaces as well as a large-scale, purpose-built performance lab.

Promotions, Administrative Changes, and Retirements

In AY2021, three faculty members retired: Roger Schwarzschild (Linguistics and Philosophy), Ruth Perry (Literature), and Peter Donaldson (Literature). In addition to these retirements, Alp Simsek (Economics) left the Institute.

It was a successful year for faculty promotions. A total of nine cases were brought forward for consideration. Of these, two faculty members were promoted to associate professor without tenure: E.J. Green (Linguistics and Philosophy) and Justin Reich (Comparative Media Studies/Writing). Seven were promoted to full professor: Manduhai Buyandelger (Anthropology), Eric Goldberg (History), Graham Jones (Anthropology), Chakanetsa Mavhunga (STS), Vipin Narang (Political Science), Tanalis Padilla (History), and Tamar Schapiro (Linguistics and Philosophy). These promotions are all effective July 1, 2021.

As a result of this year's recruitment efforts, four candidates accepted faculty appointments in the school. All four are assistant professors.

In 2020–2021, there were five leadership changes in the school. At the beginning of the Fall 2020 semester, Heather Paxson became department head of Anthropology, Glenn Ellison became department head of Economics, Chris Capozzola became department head for History, and Stephanie Frampton became director of Digital Humanities.

Melissa Nobles
Kenan Sahin Dean