

## **Department of Political Science**

The MIT Department of Political Science offers a full undergraduate curriculum in political science; provides graduate education and research training at the highest level of excellence; maintains an environment in which faculty and advanced students can carry out original research on political behavior, processes, institutions, and policies; and contributes to the capacity of governmental and private organizations at the local, national, and international levels to deal effectively and humanely with important political issues.

The key to the department's success lies in recruiting, nurturing, and retaining an outstanding faculty devoted to both research and teaching. In this regard, the department is flourishing. Over the past several years, we have successfully recruited a number of new faculty members, three of whom joined the department in July 2006. We are very excited about these hires and about the department's prospects of hiring additional junior and senior faculty members in the coming year.

### **Educational Initiatives**

Department faculty members consider that their role is to provide a world-class educational experience for graduate and undergraduate students within the unique environment of MIT. The department is a pioneer in engaging science and engineering students with policymakers and international laboratories and industries through innovative research and internship programs, such as the MIT International Science and Technology Initiatives (MISTI) and the MIT Washington Internship Program. In addition, significant effort has been expended to develop methods of using new internet surveying technologies to explore public opinion on such issues as science and defense policy, topics infrequently examined by academic surveys.

### **Public Opinion Research and Training Lab**

Elting R. Morison professor Stephen Ansolabehere successfully launched the Public Opinion Research and Training Lab (PORTL), which is an innovative approach to teaching graduate and undergraduate students the science of public opinion surveying. The centerpiece of the lab is the annual PORTL survey. Designed, implemented, and analyzed in the context of the PORTL research seminar, this survey will be conducted each fall in the Department of Political Science, covering a wide range of current political science research questions and important national problems. Seminar participants will develop the questionnaire, which will be administered by a professional survey research firm to a national sample of adults. Seminar participants will then use the survey results to learn data analysis methods firsthand and write original research papers. The lab also distributes survey data assembled by MIT political scientists and allied researchers, including the MIT Energy and Environment Surveys.

### **Minor in Advanced International Studies**

This year marked the second year of the undergraduate minor in advanced international studies, which is academically overseen by the Department of Political Science and

administered in the Center for International Studies. This new interdisciplinary minor prepares undergraduate students for a future in an increasingly global economy and international research environment. The minor is based on three key principles that guide a rigorous model of international education: (1) the ability to speak the language of a foreign country and to be familiar with its cultural dimensions; (2) awareness of fundamental international economic, political, cultural, and historical patterns; and (3) hands-on experience in another culture combined with theoretical learning. In its second year, it is already the second-largest minor at the Institute.

### **Graduate Program Changes**

We are now into the second year of a revised set of requirements in the PhD program. Among the new requirements are: the first-year seminar exploring core issues in the principal subfields of the discipline; a streamlined schedule leading to the completion of general examinations; and a research paper completed in the second year. This was the first year in which our PhD students were required to complete the revamped second-year paper requirement. The paper is designed to give students an initial experience in researching, writing, and revising a paper that might be presented at a conference or submitted for publication in a journal. Ideally, second-year papers develop from existing seminar papers that students polish and defend for one semester of course credit in the spring of their second year. The faculty already perceive that PhD students are progressing to their dissertation research more quickly than in the past, though the Graduate Program Committee will take an initial look at the new requirement next year to ensure that the reforms are actually on target.

### **Other Educational Initiatives**

With the Washington Internship Program, the Department is helping MIT take the lead nationally in enhancing the education of technologically sophisticated undergraduates by exposing them to the practical world of politics and policy-making while maintaining a high degree of academic rigor. The program, which allows MIT's technically oriented students to experience how institutions vital to their later success operate, also gives the federal government and other policymakers early access to the best young scientists and engineers in America. The program continues to flourish; 14 undergraduates participated in the summer of 2005.

Professor Ansolabehere continues as the director of the Senior Congressional Staff Seminar, which educates congressional staff in changes in the fields of science and technology and their long-term implications for public policy in the United States and internationally.

Raphael Dorman and Helen Starbuck professor Suzanne Berger continues as director of MISTI, a program that has served as a model for how science and engineering students can participate in international education even with their generously packed undergraduate programs. Within MISTI, Professor Berger serves as director of the MIT–France program, Alvin J. Siteman professor Richard Locke codirects the MIT–Italy program, Ford International professor Richard Samuels directs the MIT–Japan program, David W. Skinner professor Michael Piore directs the MIT–Mexico program, and associate professor Edward Steinfeld directs the MIT–China program.

Professor Nazli Choucri continues to develop the Global System for Sustainable Development, an internet-based set of experiments in international, distributed, multilingual, and multicultural knowledge development, sharing, and networking.

Professor and department head Charles Stewart III served as an associate chair of the Task Force on the Undergraduate Educational Commons and is housemaster of McCormick Hall.

### **New Subjects**

This past year, both of the department's new undergraduate and graduate subjects were offered by associate professor Andrea Campbell: 17.317 US Social Policy and 17.951 Political Behavior.

### **Student Recruitment, Placement, and Enrollment**

The department had a very good year in graduate recruitment. It received and reviewed 276 applicants for the PhD program and accepted 28 applicants. The enrolling class has 12 students. The department also received and reviewed 71 applicants for the master's program and accepted 12, with 6 enrolling. The admissions yield has been steady for the past few years, and we continue to draw a much more diverse group of students than just a few years ago, including a large number of strong applicants in comparative politics, security studies, and political economy. In the case of comparative politics, we made a decision several years ago to build from below in this field, and we now have a large group of excellent junior faculty. The fact that the group is so heavily junior limits graduate student recruitment, but reputations are growing and positions are consolidating, as we know they will. We are confident that this year's strong result is not a onetime blip.

Our graduating doctoral students continue to find positions at leading research universities and institutions, this year including American University, Brigham Young University, Caltech, Cambridge Energy Research Associates, Dartmouth College, Georgia Tech, the University of Missouri, the Naval Postgraduate School, and Suffolk University. In addition, students took postdoctoral positions at Georgetown University, Harvard University, the University of Montreal, Queens University (Ontario), and the Woodrow Wilson International Center.

Undergraduate enrollments have continued to maintain their high levels. We had 38 majors and 80 minors overall, 24 in political science, 10 in public policy, and 46 in applied international studies.

### **Faculty and Personnel**

MIT faculty members are frequently sought out to provide commentary in the press and other public forums concerning public affairs. Faculty in American politics and security studies were in particular high demand in light of the continuing controversy over the 2004 presidential election and the military activity in Iraq and Afghanistan. The visibility of Ford International professor Barry Posen has been particularly great within the media, as he has participated in numerous symposia concerning the Middle East and has

appeared more than a dozen times on various television and radio talk shows to discuss several security-related topics.

### **Faculty Awards and Recognition**

Professor Berger was named a Class of 1960 fellow for a term ending in 2008.

Associate professor Adam Berinsky received the Midwest Political Science Association Emerging Scholar Award for 2006. This award is given for the best paper, regardless of field of topic, authored by a scholar (or scholars) who received his or her terminal degree(s) no more than six years prior to the year of the meeting at which the paper was presented.

Assistant professor Sarah Song was a visiting fellow in the American Academy of Arts and Sciences Visiting Scholars Program during 2005–2006.

Leon and Anne Goldberg professor Joshua Cohen was invited to present the Tanner Lectures at the University of California at Berkeley in the spring of 2007 and was the keynote speaker at the 2006 Princeton Conference on Deliberative Democracy.

Assistant professor Taylor Fravel was a visiting fellow in the American Academy of Arts and Sciences Visiting Scholars Program and a fellow in the China and the World Program at Harvard and Princeton, both for 2006–2007.

Professor Locke was named a Faculty Pioneer for Academic Leadership by the Aspen Institute Business and Society Program.

Arthur and Ruth Sloan professor James Snyder was a distinguished visitor at the London School of Economics during April–May 2006.

Assistant professor Lily Tsai was appointed a graduate fellow of the American Academy of Political Science and received the Best Field Work Award from the Comparative Democratization Section of the American Political Science Association at the association's 2005 annual meeting.

Associate professor Melissa Nobles was the plenary speaker at the Reparations across the Americas conference held at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Professor Campbell was named the Hayes professor of political science for a term ending in 2009.

Professor Choucri is chairman of the Scientific Advisory Board for the Management of Social Transformation Program of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Paris), and she is the convener for the Sessions on Computational Politics, World Social Science Forum, Argentina.

## **Personnel Activity and Upcoming Faculty Searches**

We are pleased to report that, effective July 1, 2006, Ford career development associate professor Jonathan Rodden will be promoted to associate professor with tenure.

The department conducted three faculty searches in the fall in the following areas: American politics/public policy, international relations, and comparative politics. We are pleased to report that we were successful in recruiting our top choice from each of these searches.

In AY2006–2007, the department will conduct two searches. The first is a junior search in the area of international security, broadly conceived, to help rebuild numerical strength in this area and to help cover newly developing topics in this important subfield. We will also be continuing an ongoing senior search, without respect to field, in an effort to shore up midcareer leadership in one of several areas of the department that could benefit from the addition of someone who is roughly 10 years beyond the PhD.

Increasing the presence of minority representatives and women in the department remains a major concern. All committees formed for the coming year's faculty searches will make special efforts to identify outstanding women and minority candidates. In addition, the department's Personnel Committee functions as a diversity committee to ensure that the department's goals are aggressively pursued.

## **Faculty Leaves, Departures, and Visitors**

Professor Harvey Sapolsky retired at the end of the academic year after four decades of service to MIT. He has filled many roles at the Institute and in the department, most recently serving as director of the Security Studies Program. We are delighted that he will retain an office in the Center for International Studies, where he will continue to participate in the research operation of the Security Studies Program and will continue as an engaged member of the MIT community. His position as program director will be assumed by Professor Posen effective July 1, 2006.

As a result of a combination of sabbaticals, junior research leaves, and family leaves, professors Berinsky, Cohen (fall), Rodden (spring), Samuels, Snyder (spring), Song, Steinfeld (fall), and Tsai were on leave from the Institute this past academic year.

We are disappointed to report that Professor Cohen, a prominent political philosopher and public intellectual who recently headed the department, decided to join the Stanford faculty in the law school, political science department, and philosophy department, effective July 1, 2006.

In the coming year, the department will be hosting several visitors, including Mallick Gachem, who will teach an undergraduate class on the US Constitution; Flynt Leverett, late of the Brookings Institution and now senior fellow and director of the Geopolitics and Geoeconomics of Energy Security Project at the New America Foundation, who will teach a graduate seminar on conflict in the Middle East; Lawrence McCray, former project director with the National Academy of Sciences, who will teach in science,

technology, and public policy; and Riccardo Puglisi, a recent PhD from the London School of Economics, who will teach two classes on statistical methods and game theory.

### Faculty Research and Publications

The faculty of the Department of Political Science is prolific in its publication activity across the variety of topics taught. The faculty's research is funded through a combination of outside grants and internal Institute funds. The following are new outside research grants received by members of the department this past year.

Professors Ansolabehere and Snyder received a grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to study the dynamics of primary elections in the United States from the late 19th century to the present.

Professor Berinsky received a two-year grant from NSF for "Collaborative Research: The American Mass Public in the 1930s and 1940s" (with Eric Schickler). He also received a grant to participate in NSF's Time-Sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences for "Elites, Events, and Public Support for War."

Professor Campbell received a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Investigator Award in Health Policy for the project "The Medicare Modernization Act of 2003: Ideologies, Interests, and Policy Feedbacks in the Contemporary Politics of Medicare" (with Kimberly J. Morgan).

Professor Locke received a grant from the Bergstrom Family Foundation and a grant from Jack Hennessey in support of the Global Entrepreneurship Lab.

Associate professor Kenneth Oye received an NSF grant (with Bruce Beck and Kenneth Reckhow) for the Trans-Atlantic Uncertainty Colloquium. He also received a grant from the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science for the policy component of the Kuwait-MIT Water and Energy Research Project.

Associate professor Roger Petersen received a grant from the Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation.

Professor Stewart received an NSF grant for "Collaborative Research to Develop a US Senate Election Database, 1871-1913" (with Wendy Schiller).

The following is a representative sampling of the faculty's recent publications.

Professor Berger published *How We Compete: What Companies Around the World Are Doing to Make It in the New Global Economy* (Doubleday). The book has been translated into French with a new introductory chapter on France; it is also being translated into Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, and Japanese.

Professor Berinsky published four articles this year in the area of public opinion: "Making Sense of Issues through Media Frames: Understanding the Kosovo Crisis" in the *Journal of Politics* (with Donald Kinder); "Don't Knows and Public Opinion Towards

Economic Reform: Evidence from Russia” in *Communist and Post-Communist Studies* (with Joshua Tucker); “The Indirect Effects of Discredited Stereotypes in Judgments of Jewish Leaders” in the *American Journal of Political Science* (with Tali Mendelberg); and “The Perverse Consequences of Electoral Reform in the United States” in *American Politics Research*.

Associate professor Campbell published three articles and a book chapter on the topic of the mass origins of support for social welfare policies: “Financing the Welfare State: Elite Politics and the Decline of the Social Insurance Model in America” in *Studies in American Political Development* (with Kimberly Morgan); “Federalism and the Politics of Old-Age Care in Germany and the United States” in *Comparative Political Studies* (with Kimberly Morgan); “Racial Threat, Partisan Climate, and Direct Democracy: Contextual Effects in Three California Initiatives” in *Political Behavior* (with Cara Wong and Jack Citrin); and “Parties, Electoral Participation, and Shifting Voting Blocs” in *The Transformation of the American Polity* (Paul Pierson and Theda Skocpol, eds., Princeton University Press). Her book *How Policies Make Citizens* was issued in paperback by Princeton University Press.

Professor Choucri published “Improving National and Homeland Security through Context Knowledge Representation Technologies” (with S. Madnick and M. Siegel) in *21st Century Information Technologies and Enabling Policies for Counter Terrorism* (R. Popp and J. Yen, eds., John Wiley & Sons) and “Profiles of States as Fuzzy Sets: Methodological Refinement of Lateral Pressure Theory” in *International Interactions* (with A. K. Wikboldt). She is readying two books for publication: *CyberPolitics: Knowledge, eNetworking and Global Accord* (MIT Press) and *Mapping Sustainability* (Springer).

Professor Cohen published several articles and book chapters, including “A Human Right to Democracy?” in *The Egalitarian Conscience* (Christine Sypnowich, ed., Oxford University Press); “¿Sufrir en silencio?” in *El derecho a resistir el derecho* (Roberto Gargarella, ed., Miño y Dávila); “Extra Rempublicam Nulla Justitia?” in *Philosophy and Public Affairs* (with Charles Sabel); “Global Democracy?” in the *New York University Journal of International Law and Policy* (forthcoming; with Charles Sabel); and “Deliberative Democracy: Reflections on the Empirics” in *Can the People Decide? An Encounter between Theory and Empirical Research* (Shawn Rosenberg, ed.; forthcoming).

Professor Fravel published one article and one book chapter on Chinese security: “Regime Insecurity and International Cooperation: Explaining China’s Compromises in Territorial Disputes” in *International Security* and “The Evolution of China’s Military Strategy” in *China’s Revolution in Doctrinal Affairs* (David Finkelstein and James C. Mulvenon, eds., Center for Naval Analysis).

Professor Nobles has completed her book manuscript *Official Apologies and Multicultural Citizenship*, which will soon be published by Cambridge University Press, and published “Reparations Claims: Politics by Another Name” in *Political Power and Social Theory*.

Professor Oye published “The Precautionary Principle and International Conflict over Domestic Regulation: Mitigating Uncertainty and Improving Adaptive Capacity” in *Water Science & Technology*.

Professor Petersen published four articles and book chapters on the topic of ethnic politics and conflict: "Conclusion" in *Ethnic Politics After Communism* (Zoltan Barany and Robert Moser, eds., Cornell University Press); "Memory and Cultural Schema: Linking Memory to Political Action," in *Memory and Second World War: An Ethnographic Approach* (Francesca Cappelletto, ed., Berg); "United States Social Science and Counter-Insurgency Policy in Colombia" (with Vanda Felbab-Brown) in *Nonviolent Political Action in Colombia* (Freddy Cante and Luisa Ortiz, eds., Universidad del Rosario); and "Justice, Anger, Punishment and Reconciliation," in *Nonviolent Political Action and Reconciliation* (Freddy Cante and Luisa Ortiz, eds., Bogota).

Professor Posen published three commentaries on the current military situation in the Middle East: "We Can Live with a Nuclear Iran" in the *New York Times* op-ed section (reprinted in the MIT Center for International Studies' *Audits of the Conventional Wisdom*); "Exit Strategy: How to Disengage from Iraq in 18 Months" in the *Boston Review*; and "Fighting Blind in Iraq" in the *New York Times* op-ed section.

Professor Rodden's book, *Hamilton's Paradox: The Promise and Peril of Fiscal Federalism*, was published by Cambridge University Press. He also published six articles on the topic of fiscal federalism and political geography: "The Political Economy of Federalism," in the *Oxford Handbook of Political Economy* (Barry Weingast and Donald Wittman, eds.); "Economic Geography and Economic Voting: Evidence from the US States" in the *British Journal of Political Science* (with Michael Ebeid); "Purple America" in the *Journal of Economic Perspectives* (with James Snyder and Stephen Ansolabehere); "Fiscal Discipline in Federations: Germany and the EMU" in *Fiscal Policy Surveillance in Europe* (Peter Wierds, Servaas Deroose, Elena Flores, and Alessandro Turrini, eds., Palgrave Macmillan); "The Political Economy of Pro-cyclical Decentralised Finance" (with Erik Wibbels) in *Fiscal Policy Surveillance in Europe* (Peter Wierds, Servaas Deroose, Elena Flores, and Alessandro Turrini, eds.); and "Globalization and Fiscal Decentralization" (with Geoffrey Garrett) in *Globalization and Self-Determination: Is the Nation-State under Siege?* (David Cameron, Gustav Ranis, and Annalisa Zinn, eds., Routledge).

Professor Samuels completed a book manuscript, *Securing Japan*, which is forthcoming with Cornell University Press, and was general editor of *The Encyclopedia of US National Security* (Sage Publications). He published two articles on Japanese security issues, "Give and Take: The Outlook for US-Japan Defense Industrial Cooperation" in *Armed Forces Journal* and "Japan's Goldilocks Strategy" in *Washington Quarterly*. In addition, he contributed to a roundtable discussion of his previous award-winning book, *Machiavelli's Children* (T. J. Pempel, Sheldon Garon, Junko Kato, Yves Tiberghien, and Richard J. Samuels, "Roundtable Discussion of Richard J. Samuels's *Machiavelli's Children: Leaders and Their Legacies in Italy and Japan*," *Journal of East Asian Studies*).

Assistant professor Song published three articles in the field of political philosophy this past year: "Majority Norms, Multiculturalism, and Gender Equality" in *American Political Science Review*; "Religious Freedom v. Sex Equality" in *Theory and Research in Education*; and "La défense par la culture en droit américain" (The cultural defense in American law) in *Critique internationale*.



Professor Snyder published 11 articles and book chapters on various topics concerning elections, public opinion, and legislative behavior: “Purple America” in the *Journal of Economic Perspectives* (with Stephen Ansolabehere and Jonathan Rodden); “The Political Orientation of Newspaper Endorsements in US Elections, 1940–2002” in the *Quarterly Journal of Political Science* (with Stephen Ansolabehere and Rebecca Lessem); “Television and the Incumbency Advantage” in *Legislative Studies Quarterly* (with Stephen Ansolabehere and Erik Snowberg); “Legislative Effectiveness and Legislative Life” in *Legislative Studies Quarterly* (with Gerard Padro i Miquel); “Party and Incumbency Cues in Voting: Are They Substitutes?” in the *Quarterly Journal of Political Science* (with Stephen Ansolabehere, Shigeo Hirano, and Michiko Ueda); “Legislative Bargaining under Weighted Voting” in *American Economic Review* (with Michael Ting and Stephen Ansolabehere); “Unrepresentative Information: The Case of Newspaper Reporting on Campaign Finance” in *Public Opinion Quarterly* (with Stephen Ansolabehere and Erik Snowberg); “Voting Weights and Formateur Advantages in the Formation of Coalition Governments” in the *American Journal of Political Science* (with Stephen Ansolabehere, Aaron Strauss, and Michael Ting); “The Decline of Competition in US Primary Elections, 1908–2004” (with Stephen Ansolabehere, Mark Hansen, and Shigeo Hirano) in *The Marketplace of Democracy* (Michael McDonald and John Samples, eds., Brookings Institution); “Competition in State Legislative Elections, 1992–2002” (with Richard Niemi, William Berry, and Thomas Carsey) in *The Marketplace of Democracy*; and “What Did the Direct Primary Do to Party Loyalty in Congress?” (with Stephen Ansolabehere and Shigeo Hirano) in *Process, Party and Policy Making: Further New Perspectives on the History of Congress* (David Brady and Mathew D. McCubbins, eds., Stanford University Press).

Professor Steinfeld published “China’s Real Energy Crisis” in *Harvard Asia Pacific Review* (with Richard Lester).

Professor Stewart contributed the opening chapter to a major volume examining the role of Congress in American politics and three articles on voting technologies: “Congress in the Constitutional System” in *Institutions of Democracy: The Legislative Branch* (Sarah Binder and Paul Quirk, eds., Oxford University Press); “Residual Vote in the 2004 Election” in *Election Law Journal*; “Studying Elections: Data Quality and Pitfalls in Measuring the Effects of Voting Technologies” in *Policy Studies Journal* (with R. Michael Alvarez and Stephen Ansolabehere); and “Residual Votes Attributable to Technology” in the *Journal of Politics* (with Stephen Ansolabehere).

Professor Tsai’s book *Accountability without Democracy: How Solidary Groups Provide Public Goods in Rural China* will soon be published by Cambridge University Press. Professor Tsai has also published three articles and book chapters arising from her research on public good provision in rural China: “The Struggle for Public Goods Provision: Informal Institutions of Accountability in Rural China” in *Grassroots Political Reform in China* (Merle Goldman and Elizabeth J. Perry, eds., Harvard University Press); “The Dangers of Decentralization: Fiscal Management and Informal Institutions in Rural China” in *Agriculture and Rural Connections in the Pacific* (Lei Guang and James Gerber, eds., Ashgate Press); and “Solidary Groups and Public Goods Provision in Rural China in *Comparative Economic and Social Systems* (Jingji Shehui Tizhi Bijiao).

Professor Steven Van Evera published two articles on the US strategy in the war on terror: "Assessing US Strategy in the War on Terror" in *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* and "The Israeli-Palestinian Flashpoint" in *Flashpoints in the War on Terrorism: Understanding the Hot Spots that Stoke the Fire* (Derek S. Reveron and Jeffrey Stevenson Murer, eds., Palgrave).

The department's faculty continues to give an enormously wide variety of invited lectures, appear at conferences, and serve on boards of prestigious professional organizations and editorial boards, in addition to serving as advisors for government, private, and international organizations and agencies. We are confident that the number and range of these outside activities will grow and continue to generate further awareness of and respect for the quality of our department.

**Charles Stewart III**  
**Department Head**  
**Professor of Political Science**

*More information about the Department of Political Science can be found at <http://web.mit.edu/polisci/>.*