

## **MIT/Woods Hole Joint Program in Oceanography and Applied Ocean Science and Engineering**

The Joint Program of the [Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution](#) (WHOI) and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology offers advanced degrees in oceanography and applied ocean science and engineering. Graduate study encompasses virtually all of the basic sciences as they apply to the marine environment: physics, chemistry, geology, geophysics, and biology. Students who choose applied ocean science and engineering may concentrate in the major fields (civil, environmental, mechanical/ocean, and electrical engineering). More than 170 scientists/faculty from the two institutions participate in the joint program. There are currently 128 students enrolled in the five areas of study offered: biological, chemical, or physical oceanography; marine geology and geophysics; and oceanographic engineering.

Since all MIT faculty involved in the joint program are members of an academic department, their individual accomplishments and awards are reported through those departments. These include the Departments of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Biology, and Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences (EAPS).

### **Building 54 Dedicated Office Space and New Videoconferencing Classrooms**

In February 2013, EAPS department head and professor Robert van der Hilst, in conjunction with MIT/WHOI Joint Program director Edward A. Boyle and vice president for research Maria Zuber, agreed to assign several rooms on the eighth floor of Building 54 for the program's use, creating a formal joint program "hub" at MIT as part of a large-scale renovation of EAPS administrative and classroom space.

Construction was completed in August 2013. The new area includes:

- The MIT/WHOI Joint Program administrator's office, 54-820 (formerly located in 54-911).
- A student office in 54-814 that has the capacity for 12 MIT-based students (these students were formerly housed in Buildings 54, 68, and E25).
- A large dedicated videoconferencing classroom, 54-823, where the majority of joint program meetings and classes are held throughout the year (replacing the classroom formerly located in 24-411). This classroom was also upgraded with new equipment.
- A guest office for WHOI president Susan Avery and WHOI's vice president for academic programs and dean, James Yoder (54-812).

In addition, a smaller classroom with videoconferencing capabilities, 54-827, will be shared by EAPS and the joint program.

These space changes are in response to requests made over many years to centralize the principal activities of the joint program in one main area and allow MIT-based program students to form a social and academic community.

### **Preparation for Joint Program External Review**

Members of the Joint Program Committee met on December 19, 2013, to discuss plans for an external review of the program that will be conducted in December 2014.

**Edward Boyle**

**Director**

**Professor, Department of Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences**