Program in Science, Technology, and Society

The Program in Science, Technology, and Society (STS) helps MIT offer an education that teaches scientists and engineers to engage the social and cultural dimensions of their work at the highest levels. This education sets MIT apart from the numerous engineering schools worldwide that turn out technical specialists. The STS program continues to distinguish itself as the leading department, and graduate program, of its kind in the United States.

Educational Activities

Undergraduate

In 2014–2015, 51 students from 10 different majors were active STS concentrators. The largest representation came from Mechanical Engineering and from Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. Two undergraduate students completed minors in STS, and two students completed double majors in STS in June 2015. Juana Becerra's thesis, "Herman Feshbach: What It Meant to Be a Physicist in the Twentieth Century," was advised by Professor David Kaiser, and Brianna Jones's thesis, "Defining 'Good Science' in Today's World: A Video Compilation of Perspectives and Advice for Incoming Graduate Students," was advised by Professor Rosalind Williams. Three students worked with us on Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) projects. Professor Kaiser supervised two students, on "Quasars, Stars, Galaxies, and Quantum Entanglement" and "Causal Relationships in Astronomy." Professor John Durant supervised a student on "Holocam: Flying Through Holographic Image Spaces."

Subjects and Enrollment

STS offered 20 undergraduate subjects and 19 graduate subjects in AY2015, including eight Communication Intensive in the Humanities (CI-H) subjects. Continuing to emphasize collaboration with other areas of MIT, we offered 13 subjects jointly, with the following programs: Aeronautics and Astronautics, Anthropology, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Engineering Systems Division, Health Sciences and Technology, History, Linguistics and Philosophy, Physics, Political Science, and Women's and Gender Studies.

Our three largest subjects were STS.006 Bioethics, STS.010 Neuroscience and Society, and STS.042J Einstein, Oppenheimer, Feynman: Physics in the 20th Century, with enrollments ranging from 63 to 84 students. The majority of our remaining undergraduate subjects were smaller, seminar-style classes with enrollments of between seven and 31 students.

Undergraduate enrollment totaled 462 students, which included majors from 21 different MIT departments, plus Harvard University and Wellesley College students. Freshmen as a group outnumbered any one major, with 126 of them taking STS subjects. The three majors with the largest representation were Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Mechanical Engineering, and Physics. Graduate enrollment remained steady at 246 students from 23 different programs, including Aeronautics and

Astronautics, Engineering Systems Division, Management, Architecture, Mechanical Engineering, Science Writing, and Urban Studies and Planning, as well as programs at Harvard University.

Doctoral Program

The doctoral program in History, Anthropology, and Science, Technology, and Society (HASTS) is run by STS with collaboration from the History faculty and the Anthropology Program. The program is administered by STS, which awards the degrees. Professor Heather Paxson (Anthropology) served her second year as director of graduate studies in 2014–2015. Professor Paxson ran the admissions process, chaired the HASTS Steering Committee, served as academic advisor to the first-year cohort, and worked closely with students to encourage them to meet program deadlines in a timely manner.

The HASTS program received 130 applications for admission by our December 15, 2014, deadline, which was moved from our normal January 1 deadline in order to notify admitted students earlier than in prior years and to have an admissions timeline more in line with competing programs. In addition, we enhanced our programming during the interview visits for our top candidates. The combination of these changes resulted in a 100% yield. We offered admission to 3.8% of the applicants, and all five of them accepted. This group of incoming students holds undergraduate degrees in STS, history, art history, and physics, and four of them have completed master's degrees.

In 2014–2015, 36 students were enrolled in the graduate program. Five of those students completed their degree in September 2014. Three accepted postdoctoral positions, at the American Institute of Physics, Rutgers University, and Stanford University, and one held a lecturer position at Wellesley College this past year.

Projects, Grants, and Initiatives

During fiscal year 2015, Professor David Kaiser served as the principal investigator (PI) for a Marie Curie Fellowship awarded from the Universitat Autonoma de Barcelona to support Dr. Massimiliano Badino, whose research project is entitled "Order/Chaos: Genealogy of Two Concepts in the Culture of European Mathematical Physics." The fellowship is scheduled to continue for another year.

On January 30 and 31, Professor Emeritus Louis Buccarelli led a workshop, "Liberal Studies in Engineering: Broadening the Path to the Profession," hosted by the National Academy of Engineering in Washington, DC. Sponsorship for the workshop included the National Science Foundation, the Teagle Foundation, Claremont Graduate University, and the School of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences at MIT.

Ongoing Program Activities

Ongoing STS activities bring a wide variety of distinguished scholars to the MIT campus on a regular basis. The longest-running of these activities is the STS Colloquium series. Each colloquium focuses on a substantial, pre-circulated paper and features both the paper's author and a separate commentator.

In AY2015, STS held five colloquia, bringing 10 distinguished speakers to campus. Speakers hailed from Harvard, UCLA, University of Pennsylvania, Princeton, University of Wisconsin, University of Missouri, Yale, University of California-San Diego, University of Oregon, Ohio State, and McGill University. Topics included "'SMART' Mandate: Computing, Capital, and the Future of Urban Life," "Racial Destiny or Dexterity? The Global Circulation of Genomics as an Empowerment Idiom," and "Entangled Histories, Postcolonial Ambivalence, and Shifting Cultures of Science in India."

In fall 2014, STS hosted a workshop, "What Do Science, Technology, and Innovation Mean from Africa?" organized by Associate Professor Clapperton Mavhunga. The three-day workshop hosted preeminent speakers and contributors from Columbia University, the University of Indiana, Stanford University, Brown University, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, the University of California at Irvine, and others.

The Benjamin Siegel Prize of $2,500 is awarded annually to the MIT student submitting the best-written work on issues in science, technology, and society. The prize is open to undergraduate and graduate students from any school or department of the Institute. This year's committee awarded the 2015 prize to Elizabeth Yarina, master's student in Architecture and City Planning, for "Contested Landscape(s): Staking Claims in Michigan's Copper Country."

The annual Arthur Miller Lecture on Science and Ethics, held in May 2015, featured a prescient topic and speaker: "Why We Should Trust Science: Perspectives from the History and Philosophy of Science," by Naomi Oreskes of Harvard University. Attended by more than 150 listeners from across MIT and beyond, the lecture was a solid ending to a full year of scholarly events in STS.

Knight Science Journalism Fellowship Program

Transition and rejuvenation were the themes at the Knight Science Journalism (KSJ) fellowship program in 2014–2015, its 32nd year. In April 2014, Philip Hilts, director of the program since 2008, announced his retirement, effective June 30. After a nationwide search for a replacement, an interdepartmental committee chose veteran science writer and Pulitzer Prize winner Deborah Blum as the new KSJ director, effective July 1, 2015. The committee appointed technology journalist Wade Roush, a 1994 PhD graduate of the STS Program, as acting director for the period July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015.

Roush arrived on campus six weeks before the arrival of the 32nd class of Knight fellows—a group of 11 distinguished journalists chosen from a competitive pool of 110 applicants. The fellows included Rachael Buchanan, Ibby Caputo, Ian Cheney, Olga Dobrovidova, Gideon Gil, Giovana Girardi, Matt Kaplan, Kathleen MacLaughlin, George Musser, and Bob Young. In addition, Scott Huler was awarded a project fellowship to pursue his "Lawson Trek" project comparing modern-day North Carolina and South Carolina to the landscape witnessed by early 18th century British explorer John Lawson. A twelfth fellow, Beijing-based Cui Zheng, was unable to join the fellowship after Chinese authorities prevented her from leaving her country, and a thirteenth fellow, Oriana Fernandez, withdrew from the program shortly after her arrival.

In addition to auditing courses at MIT and Harvard, the Knight fellows engaged in an extensive curriculum of seminars, workshops, tours, and field trips designed to introduce them to top researchers and research sites in New England and to boost their media production skills. KSJ hosted 41 semiweekly science seminars and journalism dinners over the course of the year, featuring more than 50 guest speakers, including Institute Professor Phillip Sharp, Harvard University researcher Naomi Oreskes, *New Yorker* staff writer Jill Lepore, and MIT President Emerita Susan Hockfield. The program organized two well-attended science workshops for visiting journalists (formerly known as boot camps) on biostatistics and medical evidence and advances in brain and cognitive sciences. The program also organized seven digital media training workshops for the fellows, on videography, video editing, video animation, digital photography, web design, mapping, and data journalism.

Fellows often ventured out into the local and regional science scene on KSJ-organized tours of destinations such as the Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research, the Wind Technology Testing Center, the WGBH and WBUR studios, the Volpe Transportation Research Center, the Chandra X-Ray Observatory Control Center, and the Mystic River. The program organized multi day field trips to the Marine Biological Laboratory and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Woods Hole, MA; the Harvard Forest in Petersham, MA; and Jackson Laboratory and the Mt. Desert Island Biological Laboratory in Bar Harbor, ME. And in a collaboration with colleagues at Harvard's Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, the program produced a special evening seminar on women in science and science writing, attended by the fellows and a standing-room-only crowd of other participants at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.

The KSJ Tracker, a media criticism blog maintained by the program since 2006 and staffed by freelance science writers, was put on hiatus effective December 30 pending a review intended to improve the site's quality and relevance. Meanwhile acting director Roush introduced a new KSJ Blog, where the program published 61 posts between July 1, 2015, and June 30, 2015. The blog posts covered events such as KSJ field trips and workshops and the annual Knight fellows graduation ceremony with President Reif. ("You don't know how desperately your work is needed," Reif told the fellows at this year's ceremony. "You are the translators. If you don't do it, no one will.") The blog also highlighted program news about current and former Knight fellows, such as the awarding of a Pulitzer Prize to a group in the *Seattle Times* newsroom that included 2014–2015 fellow Bob Young, and the launch of a new biotechnology publication by 2005–2006 fellow Luke Timmerman. In April, KSJ finalized an agreement with The Open Notebook (TON), an online journal focused on the craft of science writing, to promote and publish TON articles on the KSJ website. As part of the one-year pilot agreement, KSJ is providing TON with a small monthly operating grant.

KSJ media initiatives in 2014–2015 also included a video documentary about former Knight Fellow Lynda Mapes and her "Witness Tree" project on climate research at the Harvard Forest, a long-term ecological research site in Petersham, MA. The documentary was produced and directed by KSJ digital media training coordinator Patrick Wellever (who left MIT in May for a position at National Geographic), with videography assistance from several of the 2014–2015 fellows. The SHASS communications office

and MIT News covered the video's debut, and it has been viewed hundreds of times on YouTube and Vimeo.

The Knight Science Journalism program is supported by an endowment from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, and by additional alumni and foundation gifts.

Faculty Activities

Although on sabbatical in the fall term, Professor Michael Fischer taught a reading course, was a co-convener of the weekly joint MIT-Harvard ("Friday morning") seminar in medical anthropology (now running for 39 years), convened a two-day workshop on STS in Asia at MIT, and served as a PI on a Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD) International Design Center grant under which he supports two STS graduate students. He is a co-PI on the $15 million Hewlett-Packard Foundation grant on cybersecurity led by Daniel Weitzner and Hal Abelson. He spent the spring term with the MIT-SUTD collaboration in Singapore. He chaired three PhD committees, served on four other committees (one at National University of Signapore (NUS) and one at Harvard), and served on four editorial boards: *East Asian Science, Technology and Science* [*EASTS*, Duke University Press]; *Science, Technology and Society* [Sage]; *Cultural Politics*; and *Cultural Anthropology*. He continued to co-edit the leading STS book series *Experimental Futures* at Duke University Press, which has now published more than 26 volumes, with more in the pipeline. He gave two papers at the American Anthropological Association Meetings, and one at the Society for Social Studies of Science (4S) meetings in Buenos Aires held jointly with Latin American STS scholars from across the continent. He participated in invitation-only workshops in Singapore on big data and on aging cities (convened by the SUTD Lee Kuan Yew (LKY) Center for Liveable Cities, and the Duke-NUS Center for Ageing Research and Education, respectively). He published five book chapters, two articles in peer-reviewed journals, a review essay, and two book reviews, and prepared and delivered an essay in honor of MIT Professor Jean Jackson on the occasion of her retirement: "The Post-Modern Arts of Memory II: From Cosmogenesis to Politics (Colombia Reindigenization)."

Professor David Kaiser was on sabbatical during fall 2014, and he returned to his position as department head of MIT's Program in Science, Technology, and Society during spring 2015. He published two peer-reviewed articles in physics, including an invited review article on post-inflation reheating, as well as four book chapters and four popular essays in venues ranging from the *New York Times* to the *Huffington Post*. His latest edited volume, *Groovy Science: Science, Technology, and American Counterculture* (co-edited with Patrick McCray), has been accepted for publication by the University of Chicago Press and is now in production. He has continued to collaborate with physicist Anton Zeilinger on a new experimental protocol to test quantum entanglement, while also co-advising (with Alan Guth) the Density Perturbations Group in MIT's Center for Theoretical Physics. He advised three theses—one master's thesis and one undergraduate thesis in physics, and one undergraduate thesis in STS—and served on the dissertation committee for a PhD student in physics. He presently serves as the principal advisor for two postdoctoral fellows and four PhD students in MIT's doctoral program in History, Anthropology, and Science, Technology, and Society, as well as on the dissertation committees of five other PhD students at MIT, Harvard,

and Boston University. Kaiser serves as an editor of the scholarly journal *Historical Studies in the Natural Sciences;* on the editorial board for the MIT Press; on the advisory board for *Nautilus* magazine; and on the alumni advisory board for the Department of Physics and Astronomy at Dartmouth College. During 2014–2015, Kaiser co-organized Celebrating Einstein, a series of events, under the auspices of the Cambridge Science Festival, to mark the 100th anniversary of Einstein's general theory of relativity. Events included panel discussions, a danced lecture, and a live orchestral performance of an original score inspired by Einstein's relativity. As part of Celebrating Einstein, Kaiser and collaborators prepared an original two-part curriculum on relativity for 8th and 9th graders and coached 55 student-volunteers from MIT, Harvard, and other area universities to teach the new materials in schools throughout the greater Boston area, ultimately reaching 1,000 middle-school students. Kaiser delivered an invited keynote lecture at the annual April meeting of the American Physical Society and served as an invited panelist at an event at the New York Academy of Sciences. He delivered a colloquium in Princeton's Davis Center for Historical Studies and three invited lectures on physics and the history of science at Summit High School in Summit, New Jersey. He was a guest on NPR's "Science Friday" radio show to discuss Einstein and relativity; on a BBC 4 "Frontiers" radio program about cosmic inflation; and on KPFK public radio to discuss physics and cosmology.

Professor Jennifer Light joined the MIT faculty in July 2014 as professor of science, technology, and society and, by courtesy, professor of urban studies and planning, after 15 years at Northwestern University. Light published *From Voice to Influence: Understanding Citizenship in a Digital Age* (co-edited with Danielle Allen, University of Chicago Press), which includes a solo-authored chapter; a short invited response paper in *Journal of Urban History;* and reviews in *Nature*, *Journal of the History of the Behavioral Sciences*, and *Technology and Culture*. A paperback edition of her book *The Nature of Cities* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2009) also appeared. Light made substantial progress on her book about the history of the junior republic movement. She gave the keynote address to a meeting of the Special Interest Group for Computers, Information, and Society (in press at *Information and Culture*) and was the subject of an extended interview in *New Geographies* (in press). She served as chair and commentator in conference sessions organized by the Society for the History of Technology and the Urban History Association; she organized and led How Humanities Make Better Scientists and Engineers, a session at Science Foo Camp; and she gave a presentation to the STS+ group on the intersections between communication/media studies and science and technology studies. Light was awarded an honorary doctorate from Illinois Institute of Technology for her "outstanding contributions to the understanding of the intersection of science, technology, and social reform in the United States." During 2014–2015 she served as inaugural chair of the Michael Mahoney Prize Committee (Society for the History of Technology), and on the John Reps Prize Committee (Society for City and Regional Planning History). She reviewed many manuscripts for journals; several tenure and promotion cases for peer institutions; and more than 30 grant proposals for agencies including the National Science Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Light serves on editorial boards for *IEEE Annals of the History of Computing*; *Historical Studies in the Natural Sciences*; *Information and Culture*; and *Journal of Urban History*. At MIT, Professor Light developed and taught two graduate seminars

in 2014–2015: Introduction to the History of Technology (co-taught with David Mindell) and Histories of Information, Communication, and Computing Technologies; she developed syllabi for two additional courses to be offered jointly with Course 11. She joined the dissertation committees of two MIT students (one in the Program on History, Anthropology, and Science, Technology, and Society, and the other in the Department of Urban Studies and Planning) and one Harvard student (Anthropology). Light also continued to advise graduate students at Northwestern University in PhD programs in Media Technology and Society; Science Studies; and Screen Cultures. Two for whom she served as primary adviser defended their dissertations; another on whose committee she served also defended; a third is preparing for examinations and prospectus defense. Student projects developed in her previous graduate seminars were awarded Top Paper in International and Intercultural Communication (National Communication Association); Top Student Paper (Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, History Division) and Best Paper (Game History Annual Conference). In addition to service on departmental committees for graduate admissions and tenure review, Light served on Institute-wide committees to identify a new director of MIT's Environmental Solutions Initiative, to review grants for MISTI, and to select the Martin Family Society of Fellows for Sustainability.

Professor Clapperton Chakanetsa Mavhunga has been granted tenure. The promotion confirms the opinion of a global field of scholars that reviewed his tenure file, and confirms his growth as a scholar writing and teaching about the history, philosophy, and practice of science, technology, and innovation as practiced in and viewed from Africa. In September 2014, his first book, *Transient Workspaces: Technologies of Everyday Innovation in Zimbabwe*, was published by the MIT Press. In November, he convened a successful workshop at MIT entitled What Do Science, Technology, and Innovation Mean from Africa? He has just finished his second and third book manuscripts. The second is a monograph, provisionally titled *What Does Science Mean from Africa? A View from Dzimbahwe,* that seeks to show how African indigenous knowledge formed the basis and premise from which "colonial" science was built. The manuscript has been positively reviewed and is now entering production stage. The third book is an edited volume composed largely of papers presented at the MIT workshop, published under the same title. In the area of service both to the Institute and to society, Professor Mavhunga spent August 2014 as a visiting professor at Wits University in South Africa, thus advancing the nascent work of the MIT-Wits Alliance formed earlier in the year. He continued working with MIT colleagues on the MIT-Africa Advisory Committee, using his strategic position as an African and as an MIT professor to suggest philosophically, culturally, and politically nuanced ways the Institute might engage Africa through institutions of higher learning. On the teaching front, Professor Mavhunga offered three undergraduate classes—STS.089 Technology and Innovation in Africa, STS.032 Energy, Environment, and Society, and STS.007 Technology in History. His new course, Africa for Engineers, was accepted by the curriculum committee and will debut next academic year. The year ended with him working on a new graduate seminar, titled Global South Epistemologies of Science, Technology, and Innovation, also set to launch next academic year.

Professor David Mindell has completed a book, *Our Robots, Ourselves: How the New Robotics Is Changing Human Experience,* to be published by Viking/Penguin in October 2015. He is serving as chief scientist of DARPA's ALIAS program to robotically assist

pilots in aircraft cockpits. He served as a member of the MIT Museum advisory board and as co-chair of the MIT Housemaster Council, as well as on the planning committee for the MIT Aero/Astro centennial. He served as an advisor to the Pentagon's Office of Net Assessment on robotics and autonomy. He gave a seminar at Blue Origin spaceflight company on autonomy in spacecraft. He is a member of the advisory board for Woods Hole's Center for Marine Robotics. He recently founded Humatics Corporation to develop ideas and technologies for safe, transparent, and trustworthy human/robotic collaborations. Mindell and his wife Pamela continue as housemasters at MIT Edgerton House.

Professor Natasha Schüll's article "The gaming of chance" appeared in a University of Chicago Press volume called *Modes of Uncertainty: Anthropological Observations* (P. Rabinow and L. Samimian-Darash, eds., University of Chicago Press, 2015, 46–68), and her article "Engineering Chance" appeared in *Collapse VIII: Casino Real* (R. Mackay, ed., Falmouth: Urbanomic, 2014: 203–254). Schüll continued to conduct radio interviews on her 2012 book *Addiction by Design* and her second, forthcoming book, *Keeping Track: Personal Informatics, Self-Regulation, and the Data-Driven Life* (under contract with Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, manuscript due January 2016), on CBC Radio in Canada, ABC Radio in Australia, and Wisconsin Public Radio's "To the Best of Our Knowledge," among others. Reviews and features on her work appeared in such venues as *Vox, Verge, Vice*, *Boston Globe, Christian Science Monitor*, and *Financial Times*, and a profile of her current book project by Natasha Singer appeared in *The New York Times*. She continued to conduct fieldwork for *Keeping Track*, and completed and revised an article entitled "Data for life: Wearable technology and the design of self-care" (under review at *BioSocieties* for a special issue on big data, edited by R. Rapp and L. Hogle). She also participated in the three-day workshop Pharmaceutical Self and Imaginary: Studies in Psychopharmacology and Globalization at the School for Advanced Research, Santa Fe, drafting a piece called "The digital media of mood: Wearable neurofeedback therapy and the algorithmic self" (to appear in a special issue of the journal *Medical Anthropology).* She also completed a short piece to appear in *Experience,* a book volume edited by Caroline Jones and based on the proceedings of the Symposium on Seeing/Sounding/Sensing, MIT Center for Art, Science, and Technology (CAST), for which Schüll acted as a presenter and moderator. During fall 2014, Schüll's speaking engagements included two presentations on her current research, including a Boston event, "Digital health: Designing for behavior change," and a presentation at the American Anthropological Association meeting in Washington, DC, on a panel she co-organized, Producing Digital Publics. In the spring, Schull continued to speak on her new work. She spoke twice at the University of Chicago, at a conference called Disciplines, Technologies, and Algorithms (organized by Adrian Johns), and at the Department of Anthropology's Monday Seminar; she also spoke twice at New York University, at the "Algorithms and Accountability conference" and at the NYU Game Center. Finally, she spoke at the MIT Spring Symposium conference, "Our Own Devices: Tools of the Humanities; on a panel at the History of Medicine meetings in New Haven called "New Histories of Medical Technology: Information, Infrastructure and Identity" (organizer J. Greene); and at a conference called "Living Data, Inhabiting New Media" at the University of Oregon (organized by D. Rosenberg & Colin Koopman). In June of 2015, Schüll was keynote speaker at a conference callee "Virtual Stakes" in Montreal, as well as at the

annual Trento Economic Festival in Italy. As part of her fieldwork, Schüll conducted a breakout session at Quantified Self conference in San Francisco. In the fall term Schüll co-taught the Doctoral Program Seminar for History, Anthropology, and STS (HASTS) as well as the undergraduate lecture course Neuroscience and Society. In the spring, she taught a revised version of the undergraduate seminar Technology and Experience to great success, along with the lecture course Bioethics. She advised graduate students in HASTS and served on four general examinations (one within the department, one in Architecture, and two at other schools). During the 2014–2015 academic year, Schüll completed her last term of institutional service on the Subcommittee on the HASS Requirement. Within her department, she acted as one of two faculty on the Siegel prize committee. Her professional service included serving on the editorial board of *Cultural Anthropology* and as a book manuscript reviewer for MIT Press and Polity Press. Schüll's public service included acting as a consultant to the Massachusetts Gambling Commission Research Subcommittee, as an expert advisor to the Social and Economic Impacts of Gambling in Massachusetts team (led by R. Volberg of UMass Amherst), and as lead advisor to the Massachusetts Gambling Commission on implementation of Statute 97 (authored by Schüll, the statute requires that gambling establishments share their customer-tracking data with researchers).

In 2014–2015, Associate Professor Hanna Rose Shell saw substantial developments in research, teaching, service, and public outreach. At the outset of the academic year, a French translation of her book *Hide and Seek: Camouflage, Photography, and the Media of Reconnaissance* appeared, published by the widely regarded Belgian press Zones Sensibles. The new translation received positive reviews in the Belgian and French press and led to interview requests and inquiries from academic researchers working in those regions. Shell also continued her publishing and editorial work for *Technology and Culture,* the premier scholarly journal in the history of technology, and the organ of the Society for the History of Technology. Her article in *Technology and Culture,* titled "Technologist-Historian" and coauthored with fellow historian of science and technology Alex Wellerstein, appeared during this academic year as part of the series Beyond Words, which launched in the previous year. Shell also continued her very active participation in the Society for the History of Technology (SHOT); in addition to serving on the editorial board of its journal, she joined the Da Vinci Medal prize committee and also chaired the Ferguson Prize committee. Shell was also asked to chair and comment on a panel on visuality at the SHOT annual meeting. In January 2015, she traveled to the University of California at Santa Cruz to deliver a lecture and a series of screenings for the Department of Film and Media Studies, and the Department of Art History and Visual Culture. She was also invited to lecture at the University of Prague, as part of a media theory workshop and speaker series, on the topics of camouflage and strategic concealment from a media studies perspective. Her classroom and advising activities included teaching the graduate seminar STS.260 Introduction to STS, one of the core requirements in the HASTS doctoral program, and an STS common list reading group. She serves on HASTS doctoral committees and as a reader on second-year papers, and with colleague Merritt Roe Smith she developed plans for the upcoming year's STS colloquium series. Her refereed article "Shoddy Heap," which serves as an introduction for a scholarly audience to her latest book-in-progress, appeared in the

journal *History and Technology* in the spring, and her film *Shoddy Aliens,* part of the digital component of that book, was completed concurrently.

Professor Merritt Roe Smith continues to work on his book about technology and its impact during the Civil War era. He gave public presentations on the subject at the Springfield Armory National Historic Site (Springfield, MA) and the Waterworks Museum (Chestnut Hill, MA). He also delivered keynote addresses at two NEH Landmarks of American History and Culture summer workshops for teachers at the Tsongas Center/UMass-Lowell. He also made presentations at Yale University's Whitney History Center and the MIT Alumni Association Normandy Tour in Honfleur, France. He continues his appointments as a distinguished lecturer of the Organization of American Historians and as honorary guest professor at the Kanazawa Institute of Technology (Japan). He continues to edit the Johns Hopkins University Studies in the History of Technology (Johns Hopkins University Press) and serves on the national advisory committees of the Thomas Edison Papers (Rutgers University), the American Precision Museum (Windsor, VT), the American Textile History Museum (Lowell, MA), the *American Experience* television series, the Sam and Elizabeth Colt Industrial and Frontier Heritage Center (Hartford), and the Lincoln Prize in Civil War History (Gettysburg College). He is a member of the board of editors of *Vulcan,* a scholarly journal published by Brill on the history of military technology. His Institute committee service includes the chairmanship of the C. Mavhunga tenure committee, membership on the MIT 2016 Planning Committee and the S^3 Advisory Committee, and serving as faculty advisor of the American Studies undergraduate program in History. In May he was honored by MIT's School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences with a Levitan Teaching Award.

Professor Sherry Turkle has spent the year completing a new book, *Reclaiming Conversation: The Power of Talk in a Digital Age*, to be published by Penguin Press on October 6, 2015. In addition, she has spoken about the psychology and sociology of digital culture at significant international venues. As a fellow of the World Economic Forum, Turkle attended the Davos Meetings. She is a member of the WEF Steering Committee on New Media and Its Impact on the Individual and Society. During 2014–2015, Turkle was named one of Boston's top "visionaries, idealists, and thinkers" in Boston magazine's feature article "The Power of Ideas." Earlier this year, Turkle spoke at the Aspen Ideas Festival and Wisdom 2.0 in San Francisco, presenting on the power of face-to-face talk in a digital culture. Her presentations at Aspen were "The Robotic Moment: What Do We Forget When We Talk with Machines?" and "A Big Idea: An Assault on Empathy with Conversation as the Talking Cure." At Wisdom, she discussed the paradox of business experiencing a flight from conversation despite the fact that conversation has been repeatedly demonstrated to be good for the bottom line. At the August meeting of the International Psychoanalytic Association, Turkle spoke on psychoanalysis in digital culture. At the December meeting of the American Psychoanalytic Association, she was a keynote presenter on using digital tools in psychotherapy. Turkle gave the keynote address for the social sciences section at the induction ceremonies of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in September 2014. This year Turkle received an honorary doctorate from Franklin and Marshall College.

For Professor Rosalind Williams, the triad of faculty responsibilities—scholarship, teaching, and service—focused most heavily on service this past year. In terms of scholarship, for the time being she is concentrating on expanding upon the themes of her most recent book *(The Triumph of Human Empire)* in various talks and short pieces. For teaching, she has focused on teaching undergraduate STS majors and minors as well as working with graduate students who have a deep interest in STS (especially in STS and the arts) but who are not enrolled in the HASTS graduate program. Her main contribution to service was to fill in as STS program director while David Kaiser took a one-semester leave from administration in the fall term of 2014. It was an especially busy term, with three promotion cases (two for tenure, one adjunct faculty renewal) and a complicated transition period for the Knight Science Journalism program. In the spring term, besides following through with some of these processes, Professor Williams also served on the search committee for a new dean of the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences—an intensive and interesting assignment. She also continued her consulting work as distinguished visiting professor at the Technical University of Eindhoven as the STS unit there went through an especially complicated search for leadership replacement, and as the university continued its transition to a bachelor college model explicitly based on MIT's undergraduate curriculum.

David Kaiser
Director
Germeshausen Professor of the History of Science
Professor in Physics