

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 2015–2016, 58 students from 12 different majors were active STS concentrators. The largest representation came from Mechanical Engineering (Course 2) and Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (Course 6). One Course 20 student applied for a minor in STS, and one Course 2 student received approval to double major in STS. Two students worked with us on Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) projects. Professor Emeritus Louis Bucciarelli supervised a Wellesley student on “Liberal Studies in Engineering,” and Professor John Durant supervised a student on “The Selfie Stealer.”

Subjects and Enrollment

STS offered 21 undergraduate subjects and 15 graduate subjects in AY2016, including eight Communication Intensive in the Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (CI-H) subjects. We continue to emphasize collaboration with other areas of MIT and offered 15 subjects jointly with the following programs: Aeronautics and Astronautics, Anthropology, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Engineering Systems Division, Health Sciences and Technology, History, Nuclear Science and Engineering, Political Science, and Urban Studies and Planning (DUSP).

We offered three new undergraduate subjects this year, STS.002 Finance and Society, STS.049 The Long War Against Cancer, and STS.080J Youth Political Participation, and one new graduate class, STS.463J Technocracy. These courses were taught by our newest faculty members, William Deringer, Robin Scheffler, and Jennifer Light, respectively. (Light taught both STS.080 and STS.463.) STS.002 had excellent enrollment for a first-time offering, with 51 students in the class. Our average undergraduate class size is 21.5 students.

Undergraduate enrollment totaled 451 students, which included majors from 23 different MIT departments along with Harvard University and Wellesley College students. The two majors with the largest representation were Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (Course 6) and Mechanical Engineering (Course 2). First-year students were highly represented in our classes, with an enrollment of 81 over the year. Graduate enrollment totaled 184 students from 22 different programs, including Aeronautics and Astronautics, the Engineering Systems Division, Mechanical Engineering, and Urban Studies and Planning, as well as the Advanced Study Program and programs at Harvard and Brandeis.

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) continued to serve as director of graduate studies through the fall 2015 semester. Professor Christine Wally, also of Anthropology, took over as director in January 2016.

The HASTS program received 160 applications for September 2016 admission, a 23% increase over last year's number and our largest pool in the history of the program. We offered admission to 5% of the applicants and had a 62.5% yield. This group of incoming students holds undergraduate degrees in international studies, history, interdisciplinary science, anthropology, and music, and three of them have completed master's degrees.

In 2015–2016, 36 students were enrolled in the graduate program. Three of those students completed their degree in June 2016. Two accepted postdoctoral positions, at Harvard University and Columbia University. Three of our recent alumni accepted tenure-track faculty positions this spring, at Harvard University, the University of Toronto, and the University of Pittsburgh.

Projects, Grants, and Initiatives

The National Science Foundation (NSF) awarded a three-year (September 1, 2015, to August 31, 2018) grant of \$781,263 to Professor David Kaiser for his project “INSPIRE: Testing Bell's Inequality with Astrophysical Observations.” Also, Professor Kaiser serves as the principal investigator (PI) for a Marie Curie Fellowship from the Universitat Autònoma De Barcelona that supports the work of Dr. Massimiliano Badino, whose project is titled “Order/Chaos: Genealogy of Two Concepts in the Culture of European Mathematical Physics.” The fellowship is scheduled to end in October 2016.

In spring 2016, the NSF awarded a Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Research Grant to doctoral student Lucas Mueller for “Breaking the Toxic Mold: Aflatoxin and the Making of Cancer Research in the Postcolonial World, 1960–2015.” Professor Kaiser serves as the PI for the project, which is scheduled through January 2017.

Professor Emeritus Bucciarelli received a two-year grant from the NSF that will support a collaborative research project titled “Liberal Studies in Engineering—Broadening the Path to the Profession: Feasibility Study.”

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 AY2016, STS held six colloquia, bringing 12 distinguished speakers to campus. Speakers hailed from MIT, the University of Southern Denmark, Rutgers University,

the University of British Columbia, the University of Minnesota, the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, York University, Auburn University, and the University of California, Davis. They spoke on a breadth of topics ranging from “Speaking Up for the Facts: The Communal Lives of Climate Change” to “Inside Out: Video Games and the Technological Impulse” and “Technology and the Commodification of Agricultural Risk.”

Allison Macfarlane, former chair of the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission, delivered the annual Arthur Miller Lecture on Science and Ethics in fall 2015. The lecture, titled “After Fukushima: Making Nuclear Energy Safer,” attracted a crowded auditorium, with over 100 listeners in attendance from across MIT and beyond.

During November 2015, STS collaborated with the MIT Department of Physics and WGBH/NOVA to mark the centennial of Albert Einstein’s general theory of relativity by hosting a “sneak-peek” viewing of a new documentary film about Einstein and his enduring theory of gravitation. Following the screening, we held a panel discussion whose speakers included historians, physicists, and one of the producers of the film.

In spring 2016, STS hosted the Morison Prize Lecture featuring Dr. Lydia Villa-Komaroff, who gave a talk titled “Thinking Fast Makes Changing Slow.” A lively and lengthy discussion followed the hour-long lecture, the thesis of which centered on the recognition that humans make systematic errors in judgment. The hard-wired, simple, efficient rules that all humans use to make decisions (“thinking fast”) may lead to misjudgments about the capacity and potential of individuals from underrepresented groups. The discussion inspired Dr. Villa-Komaroff to write up her remarks for publication.

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 prize to HASTS PhD student Mitali Thakor for her paper “Policing in the Digital Porno-Tropics: Expertise, Entrapment, and the Fight Against Child Abuse Online.”

Spring 2016 also saw the 40th anniversary of the STS program. The anniversary was commemorated in a special event, “Algorithms, Identity, & Society: The Politics of Information,” hosted by Assistant Professor William Deringer and STS affiliate Sonja M. Amadae. The event, which attracted an audience of over 100 from across MIT, Harvard, Boston University, and other local campuses, featured guest speakers Luciano Floridi of the Oxford University Internet Institute and Nicholas Carr, a Pulitzer Prize finalist. The event also included an hour-long discussion panel with STS faculty members Sherry Turkle, David Mindell, and Jennifer Light.

Knight Science Journalism Fellowship Program

AY2016 was an exciting year of transition, reorganization, and creation for the Knight Science Journalism Fellowship Program (KSJ). In July 2015, Deborah Blum became the new director of KSJ, following the one-year tenure of acting director Wade Roush. Blum, a Pulitzer Prize-winning science journalist and author, has written for publications ranging from the *New York Times* (where she wrote a monthly column about

environmental toxicology) to *Scientific American* and is the author of five books, most recently the national best seller *The Poisoner's Handbook*. She is a former president of the National Association of Science Writers and is the current program chair of the 2017 World Conference of Science Journalists.

Blum arrived on campus six weeks before the arrival of the 33rd class of Knight Fellows, a group of 10 distinguished journalists chosen from a competitive pool of 140 applicants. The fellows were Alicia Chang, Sasha Chapman, Zack Colman, Courtney Humphries, Chris Ketcham, Anja Krieger, Federico Kukso, Betsy Mason, Rod McCollum, and Ashley Smart.

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 boost their media production skills. KSJ hosted more than 40 semiweekly science and journalism skill seminars over the course of the year featuring a roster of distinguished speakers, including leading scholars from MIT and Harvard such as Phillip Sharp, Noam Chomsky, Heidi Williams, Rosalind Picard, Hopi Hoekstra, and Dan Nocera, as well as a range of nationally recognized journalists and authors such as Virginia Hughes, the science editor of BuzzFeed; Gideon Gil, a managing editor at STAT; and Steve Silberman, author of the international best seller *NeuroTribes*.

The program organized two well-attended Kavli workshops for science journalists, one on brain and cognitive sciences and one on nanotechnology. The nanotechnology workshop, which featured a host of leading MIT researchers, was part of the annual meeting of the National Association of Science Writers/Council for the Advancement of Science Writing; this meeting was hosted at MIT and sponsored by KSJ. The meeting set attendance records, attracting nearly 800 science writers from around the country, and was widely praised for its rich overview of research in Cambridge. Wade Roush served as primary coordinator of the meeting.

In addition, KSJ received two grants from the Kavli Foundation to organize other seminars on science communication. The first of these seminars, a look at the blurring of the boundaries between scientists and journalists as communicators, will be held in July 2016; it has attracted attention from the Simons Foundation, the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, and the National Science Foundation, all of which are sending representatives to the meeting.

KSJ also organized seven digital media training workshops for the fellows, on videography, video editing, video animation, digital photography, web design, mapping, and podcasting. In addition, the fellows went on a field trip to the Jackson Laboratory and the Mt. Desert Island Biological Research Laboratory (Bar Harbor, ME), visited the Chandra X-Ray Observatory, and received travel support to attend the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (February 2016) and a conference on narrative journalism hosted by Boston University (March 2016).

In March 2016, KSJ launched a highly acclaimed new digital science magazine, *Undark*, which is dedicated to exploring the intersection of science and society. *Undark's*

launch party was held in April at the MIT Museum as part of the Cambridge Science Festival. The magazine was developed as part of a review of a 2014 decision that put the KSJ Tracker, a media criticism blog that had been maintained by the program since 2006, on hiatus. The review concluded that the blog would better serve the science journalism community—and the program—as part of an expanded and more sophisticated publication. To plan and design the magazine, Blum hired Tom Zeller, an award-winning *New York Times* environmental journalist and former KSJ fellow, as the publications editor. Zeller joined the program in July 2015, followed by associate editor Jane Roberts in February 2016. In May 2016, Blum hired David Corcoran, the former Science Times editor at the *New York Times*, as associate director of the program and a senior editor of the magazine. Corcoran will oversee interns from the graduate science writing program (a collaboration begun in fall 2015), help further integrate the magazine into the KSJ program, and expand new activities.

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

Faculty Activities

Professor Deringer joined the MIT faculty in fall 2015. Over the past year, he made substantial progress toward the completion of his first book (under contract with Harvard University Press), *Calculated Values: Finance, Politics, and the Quantitative Age, 1688-1776*. He plans to complete final revisions by January 2017, and tentative publication is scheduled for fall 2017. Professor Deringer has also made progress on several other research and writing projects. His article “For What It’s Worth: Historical Financial Bubbles and the Boundaries of Economic Rationality,” was published in the September 2015 issue of *Isis*. Another article, “Pricing the Future in the Seventeenth Century: Three Calculating Technologies,” has been accepted for publication in *Technology and Culture*, and “‘It Was Their Business to Know’: British Merchants and Mercantile Epistemology in the Eighteenth Century” has been submitted to *History of Political Economy*.

Professor Deringer is serving as guest editor (with Lukas Rieppel of Brown University and Eugenia Lean of Columbia University) for the 2018 volume of the journal *Osiris*, whose theme is “Science and Capitalism: Entangled Histories.” As part of that project, he helped co-organize a June 2016 workshop for contributors at Columbia University’s Heyman Center for the Humanities. He also made presentations on his research at Yale University, Duke University, Columbia University, Harvard Business School, Harvard Law School, and the University of California, Los Angeles. At MIT, Deringer taught three courses in 2015–2016. Two of those courses—STS.003 The Rise of Modern Science (with Hanna Rose Shell) and STS.260 Introduction to STS for graduate students—were preexisting departmental offerings. The third class, STS.002 Finance and Society, was a new course of his design that attracted 49 undergraduate students in its first year.

In the area of service to the STS program, Professor Deringer was a member of the graduate admissions committee for the HASTS PhD program, and he co-organized an STS special event on “Algorithm, Identity, and Society” in April 2016. The event featured

Professor Luciano Floridi of Oxford and journalist Nicholas Carr in conversation with a panel of STS senior faculty. In addition, he spoke about his work as the STS program's representative during the social sciences visiting committee meeting in the fall and during the "Taste of SHASS Lightning Talks" over Campus Preview Weekend in April.

Professor Michael Fischer taught three subjects and was a co-convenor of the weekly joint MIT-Harvard ("Friday morning") seminar in medical anthropology (now running for 40 years). He served as a PI on a Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD) International Design Centre (IDC) grant under which he supported two HASTS graduate students. Also, he was a co-PI on the \$15 million Hewlett-Packard Foundation grant on cybersecurity led by Daniel Weitzner and Hal Abelson, under which one HASTS graduate student will be supported in 2016–2017. He chaired three PhD committees, served on four other committees (one at the National University of Singapore and one at Harvard), and served on four editorial boards: *East Asian Science, Technology and Science*; *Science, Technology and Society*; *Cultural Politics*; and *Cultural Anthropology*.

Professor Fischer continued to co-edit the leading STS book series, Experimental Futures (Duke University Press), now with 29 volumes published and more in the pipeline. He has five articles in press and two essays on artists in Asia in preparation. He gave keynote addresses at Leuven University's Research Day for Humanities and Social Sciences, at SUTD's IDC Summit, and at the National Contemporary Center for the Arts in Singapore, as well as invited talks at the University of Chicago's 10th anniversary of the Center for Contemporary Theory and the International Atomic Energy Agency Workshop on Risk Communication and Radiation in Fukushima, held at Nagasaki University.

Professor Deborah Fitzgerald rejoined the Program in Science, Technology, and Society on July 1, 2015, after serving as associate dean and Kenan Sahin Dean of the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (SHASS) for 10 years. She was on sabbatical leave during AY2016. Professor Fitzgerald is returning to a project initially begun a decade ago. It details the transformation of the American food production and provisioning system during and after World War II. Little is known about the way in which the US Army, with the help of other branches of the federal government, American universities, and food companies, fundamentally revolutionized what Americans have eaten since the war. She plans to have an article ready for publication in 2017 and a book contract with a trade press.

In the fall, Professor Fitzgerald gave several talks on the importance of a liberal arts education for students in science and engineering. One was presented as part of a panel sponsored by the School of Engineering at Aalto University in Helsinki, Finland. Another was the third annual Yoshin Lecture at Habib University in Karachi, Pakistan. This talk, called "Enhancing Impact and Effectiveness of University Education: The MIT Story," attracted over 1,200 people. Deborah's visit to Habib was part of a campaign by the university president, a Pakistani trained at Harvard, to transform Pakistani education into coeducational, liberal arts programs that emphasize STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) in combination with humanities and social sciences. She also published an introduction to four essays in a special issue of *Global Food History* titled "Food Commodities in Wartime" (March 2016).

Professor Fitzgerald attended a number of professional association meetings (Society for the History of Technology, Environmental History Society, Agricultural History Society) primarily to get brought up to date in these fields. She received the Gladys Baker Award for Lifetime Achievement from the Agricultural History Society and served as a chair and commentator in several sessions at the society's 2016 meeting. Finally, she served as an outside letter writer on two tenure cases and one full professor case, served as a referee/evaluator for the Radcliffe Fellowship, reviewed a monograph, and, with Harriet Ritvo, co-chaired the MIT Colloquium on Agricultural and Environmental History.

Professor Kaiser completed his fifth (and final) year of service as STS department head. He published the co-edited (with Patrick McCray) volume *Groovy Science: Knowledge, Innovation, and American Counterculture* (University of Chicago Press, 2016) as well as two physics research articles, two book chapters, and four short essays (in the *New York Times*, *Nature*, the *Guardian*, and the *Huffington Post*). As noted above, he serves as PI for the NSF-funded research project "Testing Bell's Inequality with Astrophysical Observations," and (together with Alan Guth, Anton Zeilinger of the University of Vienna, and his other collaborators) he has overseen the successful completion of the project's first experiments. Professor Kaiser also continues to co-advise (with Alan Guth) the Density Perturbations Group in MIT's Center for Theoretical Physics. He advised one undergraduate thesis (which received the MIT Physics Department's Barrett Prize for Astrophysics) and three UROP projects, serves as the principal advisor for four PhD students (three in HASTS and one in MIT's Department of Physics), and supervises three postdoctoral scholars (two in STS and one in Physics).

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 boards for *Nautilus* and *Undark* magazines and the Catalyst Collaborative at MIT, and on the alumni advisory board for the Department of Physics and Astronomy at Dartmouth College. During fall 2015, Kaiser organized three public events (two public lectures at the MIT Museum and a sneak preview viewing of a new *NOVA* documentary film) to help mark the centennial of Einstein's general theory of relativity. Kaiser delivered the Lyne Starling Trimble Science Heritage Public Lecture (sponsored by the American Institute of Physics), the George Sarton Memorial Lecture at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, a distinguished lecture at NSF headquarters, an invited plenary lecture for the New England section of the American Physical Society, and a keynote public lecture at the Rome Science Festival, among others. He appeared in three science-related television specials on *NOVA/PBS*, and he continues to serve as an advisor for three other *NOVA* projects in preparation and as an invited guest on NPR's *Here and Now*.

Professor Light published papers in *New Geographies* and *Information and Culture* and is now close to completing a draft of her book *Virtual Adults* for submission to the MIT Press. She also reviewed a book for *Nature*. Light gave talks at the New York University Tandon School of Engineering and the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies (Cologne, Germany). In addition, she participated as a panelist in events at the Boston Society of Architects and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation as well as MIT campus events. Professor Light served on the editorial boards of *IEEE Annals of the History of Computing*, *Historical Studies in the Natural Sciences*, *Information and Culture*, and the *Journal*

of *Urban History*. She reviewed manuscripts for university presses and journals including the Duke University Press, the MIT Press, *Feminist Media Studies*, and the *Journal of Urban History*. She also reviewed several tenure and promotion cases for peer institutions as well as grant proposals for agencies such as the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research and the Swiss National Science Foundation. In addition, she served on the Michael Mahoney Prize committee for the Society for the History of Technology.

At MIT, Professor Light taught two new courses cross listed between STS and DUSP: 11.461J/STS.463J Technocracy (graduate) and 11.151J/STS.080J Youth Political Participation (undergraduate). Also, she made her STS.460 Histories of Information, Communication and Computing Technologies graduate seminar available on OpenCourseWare (OCW). Light served on dissertation committees for two STS and two DUSP students and signed on to advise a first-year STS student. In addition to chairing an STS search committee and serving on graduate admissions departmental committees, Light was a member of the Institute-wide Martin Family Society of Fellows for Sustainability selection committee and joined the MITx faculty advisory board.

Professor Clapperton Chakanetsa Mavhunga's first book, *Transient Workspaces: Technologies of Everyday Innovation in Zimbabwe* (MIT Press, 2014), received honorable mention/finalist recognition for two prizes in 2015: the Melville Herskovits Award for Best Book in African Studies (African Studies Association) and the Turku Prize (European Society for Environmental History). The very successful workshop Professor Mavhunga hosted in November 2014 is now in production as an edited volume (*What Do Science, Technology, and Innovation Mean from Africa?*). The book is scheduled to be published in April by the MIT Press. Also moving into production is *African Modes of Science: Tsetse Fly Entomology and Pest Control in Zimbabwean History* (.), which seeks to show how African indigenous knowledge of the tsetse fly formed the basis and premise from which "colonial" entomology and trypanosomiasis control methods were built.

In the area of service to both the Institute and society, Professor Mavhunga has continued as a visiting professor at Wits University in South Africa, where he is taking a leadership role in engaging communities in simple but effective solutions to problems. He also 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 ways in which the Institute might engage Africa in philosophically, culturally, and politically nuanced ways through institutions of higher learning. On the teaching front, Professor Mavhunga offered STS.089 Technology and Innovation in Africa and STS.007 Technology in History. During his sabbatical at IKKM-Bauhaus in Germany, Professor Mavhunga worked on his new courses, STS.088 Africa for Engineers (undergraduate) and STS.417 STS Seminar on the Global South (graduate), both of which will launch in the 2016–2017 academic calendar.

Professor David Mindell published *Our Robots, Ourselves: Robotics and the Myths of Autonomy* (Viking/Penguin, October 2015). He is serving as chief scientist of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency ALIAS program to robotically assist pilots in aircraft cockpits. He served as a member of the MIT Museum Advisory Board and presented talks on his new book at venues such as the Institute for Human and Machine

Cognition, Harvard Law School, Lincoln Laboratory, the Harvard Bookstore, and the MIT Coop. He attended a National Academy of Sciences workshop on robotics, law, and policy and gave the keynote address at the entrepreneur's forum held at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution's Marine Robotics Center. He recently founded the 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 Scheffler started work at STS in July 2015. He enjoyed a productive and rewarding first year at MIT. Two of his articles appeared in print in the fall: an article on the history of exercise physiology and industrial fatigue research in the *Journal for the History of Biology* and an overview essay on the state of the history and sociology of biomedicine (coauthored with Bruno Strasser of the University of Geneva) for the second edition of the *International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences*. He also completed book reviews for publications such as *Isis* and the *Bulletin for the History of Medicine*. The highlight of his year in research, however, was signing a contract with the University of Chicago for his manuscript in preparation, *A Contagious Cause: Cancer Viruses and the Growth of American Biomedicine*, which he expects to complete by summer 2017. He presented work related to this project at a meeting of the American Association of the History of Medicine this past May.

Professor Scheffler served on the program's honors and prizes committee with Professor Rosalind Williams, participating in the selection of this year's Morrison lecturer and in the awarding of the Benjamin Siegel Prize. He served on the dissertation committee of a graduate student in HASTS, Lan Li, who defended her dissertation this spring. On a wider level, he helped organize a well-attended roundtable on the 40th anniversary of the Asilomar meeting on the safety of recombinant DNA at the History of Science Society meeting in November, an early step in a project he is developing on the history of biotechnology. He also served as a reviewer for the University of Pittsburgh Press and for *Studies in the History and Philosophy of the Biological and Biomedical Sciences*.

Professor Scheffler taught two classes this year, the graduate introduction to the history of science in the fall and a new undergraduate lecture course in the spring, STS.049 The Long War Against Cancer. The latter was a class of his own design and perhaps the first collegiate-level course on the history of cancer offered in an STS setting anywhere in the country. Students responded very positively to the course, and Scheffler was nominated for a Teaching With Digital Technology Award from the Digital Learning in Residential Education Office. He also received a grant from the Environmental Solutions Initiative to develop City on a Hill: Understanding Environmental Change and Health in the City of Boston, a new course on the environmental and health history of Boston that he expects to offer in AY2019.

Associate Professor Hanna Rose Shell saw substantial developments in research, teaching, service, and public outreach in AY2016. She ramped up her publishing and editorial work for *Technology and Culture*, the premiere scholarly journal in the history of technology, and continued her active participation in the Society for the History of Technology; in addition to serving on the editorial board of its journal, she joined the

Da Vinci Medal prize committee and chaired the Ferguson Prize committee. Professor Shell was also asked to chair a panel on visuality at the society's annual meeting. Her classroom and advising activities included teaching the graduate seminar STS.260 Introduction to Science, Technology, and Society, one of the core requirements in the HASTS doctoral program. She serves on HASTS doctoral committees and as a reader on second-year papers, and she developed (with colleague Merritt Roe Smith) plans for the upcoming year's STS Colloquium series. Her book, *Shoddy: Technology, Waste, and Identity*, under contract with the University of Chicago Press, is in progress and scheduled for completion in September 2016. She has completed her film *Shoddy Aliens*, part of the digital component of that book.

Professor Merritt Roe Smith is writing a book on technology, management, and military innovation during the American Civil War. He gave four public lectures during the past year: one in London on "The Industrial Revolution in Global Perspective" (June 14, 2016); one at the Portsmouth (England) Royal Navy Yard on "The Portsmouth Blockmaking Machinery and the Problem of Technological Amnesia in 19th Century Britain" (June 16); the keynote address at the 175th anniversary celebration of Sts. Peter and Paul Parish in Towanda, PA (June 26); and a keynote lecture at the Lowell National Historical Park on "The Emergence of the American System of Manufacturing" (June 27).

Professor Smith continues to edit the Johns Hopkins Studies in the History of Technology series (Johns Hopkins University Press) and serves on the advisory committees of the Thomas A. Edison Papers (Rutgers University), the American Precision Museum (Windsor, VT), the American Textile History Museum (Lowell, MA), the Sam and Elizabeth Colt Industrial and Frontier Heritage Center (Hartford), The "American Experience" television series, and the Lincoln Prize in Civil War History (Gettysburg College). He also serves on the board of editors of *Vulcan*, a scholarly journal published by Brill on the history of military technology. His essay "Yankee Armorers and the Union War Machine" appeared in *Astride Two Worlds: Technology and the American Civil War* (Smithsonian Scholarly Press, 2016). He served on the 2015 Ferguson Prize committee of the Society for the History of Technology. His Institute committee service includes membership on the MIT 2016 planning committee and his role as co-chair of the STS Colloquium.

Professor Turkle published a new book, *Reclaiming Conversation: The Power of Talk in a Digital Age*. It was excerpted in the *New York Times Sunday Review* on September 26, 2015, and reviewed in the *Sunday New York Times* on October 4 by novelist Jonathan Franzen, who called Turkle "a kind of conscience for the tech world." Professor Turkle has spoken about the need for new conversations regarding digital culture at venues including Hubweek in Boston, the Peter Drucker Forum, the Milken Global Conference, and the 2016 Personal Democracy Forum. Among other honors, Turkle has been asked to give the Hans Rausing Memorial Lecture at Cambridge University, the Founders Day Address at Union College, the Clifford Geertz Commemorative Lecture at Princeton University, and the keynote address at the annual meeting of the Public Library Association. In addition, Professor Turkle has spoken to meetings of Common Sense as it launched its new digital literacy program and delivered the Zocalo Prize Lecture when *Reclaiming Conversation* was named the 2015 book that most contributed to civic discourse.

Professor Turkle has consulted to the Commission on Presidential Debates and to the World Economic Forum on its report “New Media and Its Impact on the Individual and Society.” She has spoken on the theme of conversation in digital culture on many media outlets, including *The Today Show*, *Good Morning America*, *The Diane Rehm Show*, *Science Friday*, *NPR Daily News*, and *C-Span’s Book World*. She has brought her message of human and empathic design for technology to the corporate world as well, speaking at Google and Microsoft, among many other high-tech venues. In June 2016, Professor Turkle was awarded an honorary doctorate from Concordia University for her contributions to education and computer literacy.

Professor Rosalind Williams asked for and received a teaching leave for personal reasons during the past academic year. Professor Williams remained engaged with undergraduate education by serving as a freshman advisor, as an STS undergraduate academic officer, and as a member of the Burchard Scholar Committee (which involves both selection of scholars and regular attendance at meetings). She has also mentored graduate students at MIT and beyond.

Professor Williams co-chaired the STS prizes and awards committee as well as serving as equal opportunities officer. In the area of service to MIT, she is a member of the Compton Prize Committee and the selection committee of the Council for the Arts visiting artist program. Toward the end of the academic year, she rejoined the MIT Museum Advisory Board.

Most of Professor Williams’ research time was spent reading and thinking about her next project, which is gradually becoming defined. As usual, she gave talks (notably the keynote lecture at a workshop on “unnatural disasters” at Amherst College), reviewed manuscripts, wrote book reviews, and also wrote occasional pieces (for example, the foreword for a new 50th edition of Elting Morison’s classic book *Men, Machines, and Modern Times* and a Smithsonian Libraries pamphlet, “Engineering Romance in the Late Nineteenth Century”).

David Kaiser

Director Germeshausen Professor of the History of Science

Professor of Physics