



October 15, 2009

Dear HASS Colleague:

The Burchard Scholar Selection Committee is now seeking nominations of MIT juniors and sophomores for the **2010 BURCHARD SCHOLARS** Program, which is sponsored by the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences.

We have all had the experience of noting one or two exceptionally gifted students in one of our classes, and wishing that we could get these students together with their counterparts in another class. We have all noted that such students have no common “center” at MIT, but live in isolation from their peers. Such students are often not majors in our fields, but, while pursuing a career in science or engineering, are equally interested in the humanities, arts or social sciences, and endowed with ability in these areas.

We will select up to 30 students as Burchard Scholars for the calendar year 2010. The Burchard Scholars Program will recognize these students, give them a chance to become acquainted with one another, and indicate our School’s desire to offer them and ourselves greater visibility. As you may know, our format is the monthly dinner-seminar at which a faculty member or visiting scholar will present work in progress, followed by a general discussion. This kind of “intellectual feasting” allows both students and faculty a greater chance to mix and, especially for students, an opportunity to engage in the kind of intellectual exchange that characterizes scholarship in our areas.

Please find enclosed with this letter the 2010 application and reference form. We encourage you to single out these exceptional students and have them fill out the form and return it to you so that you may write the requisite reference. Then send the application and reference form directly to the Burchard Selection Committee (E51-255) by **Tuesday, December 1, 2009**. The Committee’s decision will be announced before the end of this term. Burchards will meet for two consecutive terms, beginning in February 2010.

The same application form is being sent to all MIT sophomores and juniors. Those in good standing (there is no restriction as to major) are eligible to apply, provided they secure a recommendation from a HASS faculty member. But please do not wait for that special student to approach you; take the initiative yourself! We realize this is an extra burden on you, but it is in the interest of our undergraduate student body and the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences.

Yours sincerely,



Deborah K. Fitzgerald  
Kenan Sahin Dean  
Professor of the History of Technology

Enc: 2010 Burchard Application and Reference Form