EECS Continues to Be Sophomores’ Top Major Choice

There might also be an increase in the number of biology majors during the year as there was last year, Walker said.

Decline in physics majors

The number of sophomore physics majors decreased to 48 from 60 last year and 75 two years ago.

Isabel C. Vasconcelos, undergraduate administrator in the physics department, said that the reason for the decrease is unclear. The downward trend might be due to incorrect perceptions of physicists, Vasconcelos said. "There could be a perception that there may be less jobs available to people with a bachelor’s degree in physics, which is not in fact the case," she said.

The cyclical pattern of interest observed by all fields is another possible reason for the decrease, Vasconcelos said. "I think there's a tendency for these things to go up and down, and we could be surprised next year by having more majors."

"People choose physics because they really love physics. ... The only thing you can do is expose people to physics, and see what people want," Vasconcelos said.

Sophomore enrollment in the Sloan School of Management more than doubled from 17 last year to 35.

Reasons for the sharp rise include a perception that management has much relevance to students receiving technical degrees, said Thomas J. Allen PhD ’66, senior associate dean of the School of Management. "The majority of our graduates end up in management at some point in their lives anyway, and students are realizing that."

Judge Reviewing Motion to Dismiss

LaMacchia, from Page 1

The defense has been hopeful that the case would be dismissed on this basis.

"It is a positive sign that the judge refused to set even a tentative trial date or a date to argue the motion to suppress evidence," Silverglade said. "I think [Steams] did this because he is inclined to grant the motion to dismiss the indictment."

"I continue to feel very strongly that the government cannot proceed under the broad and vague ‘wire fraud’ laws to prosecute what is at heart a copyright matter," Silverglade said.

The wire fraud charge is a criminal violation, white copyright infringement is a civil violation.

"The government claims that [LaMacchia] committed a civil, but not a criminal, violation," Silverglade said. "If this is so, then how can the government turn it into a crime simply by proceeding under a different statute?"

A spokesperson from the U.S. Attorney's office said that the prosecution would not respond to the hearing until Judge Stearns has made a decision.

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