Dear Friend of UPOP:

UPOP is known throughout the Institute for giving students both "a taste of the real world" and the concrete tools and skills they'll need to thrive in it. In this newsletter, we share some of the ways we do so: our career-coaching roundtable series, our internship advising, and our freshman open house.

People often ask how students apply what they learn in UPOP. As many of you know, UPOP students use Edward DeBono's Six Thinking Hats methodology throughout their IAP intensive weeklong workshop, and beyond. They are in good company, as this article on IBM's use of the methodology shows. (Our thanks to long-time UPOP mentor, Paul Hausmann GM '75, for the link.)

As always, we appreciate your continued support.

The UPOP Team
Joel Schindall Director | Leo McGonagle Executive Director | Kate Moynihan Mentor and Event Coordinator | Bethany Walsh & Sharon Leary Student Relations Coordinators | Amy Bass Employer Relations Coordinator | Jessica Jones Office & Marketing Coordinator

UPOP's Roundtable Series
Career coaching from the "real world"

David Lakatos '12 of Formlabs, and YeSeul Kim '10 of HighStart Group, share their unusual career paths with UPOP Class of 2016 students during the first of UPOP's four spring roundtable events.

UPOP's "a la carte" options this spring included four roundtable events focusing on careers--"Industry Advice for Emerging Professionals." Nearly 150 students attended this popular series, which was sponsored by Lincoln Laboratory.

At each session, four different industry professionals--mostly MIT alums--
shared their often-unusual career paths, and then rotated around the room to engage with the students in small group discussions.

Discussion topics included "Graduate school vs industry: which is the right path for you?" "Don't let your major define you," and "Entrepreneur: to be or not to be." Our industry guests included 16 MIT alums such as Natan Linder, Co-Founder of Formlabs; Deborah Theobald, Co-Founder of Vecna Technologies; and Dulcie Maden, CEO/Co-Founder of Rest Devices. See the full list of industry guests and topics here.

Internship Update

UPOP Class of 2016 students will be interning all over the world this summer for companies both large and small, including: Google, Walt Disney Company, Biogen, Lockheed Martin, Pioneer Natural Resources, NASA, and many, many more.

UPOP staff members have spent many hours this spring meeting one-on-one with students in need of an extra "boost" from UPOP in their internship search. One sophomore admitted to an "internship meltdown" before speaking with staff, but now happily reports she will be joining a local startup. She wrote: "UPOP really motivated me this spring to keep applying. Your advice on casting a wide net, how to introduce yourself and present yourself during an interview all gave me the push I needed! Thank you!"

Freshman Open House

"A Taste of UPOP"

Class of 2017 freshmen pick up hints on making the most of their summer internship, while enjoying games and conversation with UPOP staff and alums at the April 24 Freshman Open House.

The "2014 National Freshman Attitudes Report" reveals that 67 percent of freshmen entering college wanted help with developing an educational plan to "get a good job."

Of course, we know this at UPOP, and that's why we hold open houses for freshmen, to introduce them to "A Taste of UPOP." Our most recent open house, sponsored by State Farm, featured lively discussions about how they can make the most of their coming freshman summer internships, and how, when they are sophomores, UPOP can give them a career edge, with skills coaching, and access to extraordinary mentors as well as 2000+ top-tier employers.

UPOP is the Undergraduate Practice Opportunities Program, a yearlong co-curricular program open to MIT sophomores from across the Institute. The program's mission is to prepare MIT sophomores to successfully integrate into and thrive in the
professional world and to be strong contributors to their organizations, supported by a dynamic community of students, program staff, employers and MIT alums. UPOP offers numerous opportunities for MIT alums and companies to get involved—as speakers, coaches, employers, and sponsors.

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