Dear Friend of UPOP:

UPOP had a busy and successful summer, with students in all corners of the globe doing interesting and exciting things: contributing to clean water efforts in the US Virgin Islands, aiding in Amazon's mission to deliver packages via unmanned aerial vehicles, and engineering high-tech baby monitors at an MIT-originated startup in Boston.

We'll highlight specific student experiences in the October newsletter, but this issue looks at staff site visits to students and employers and our first UPOP Advisory Board meeting held in July.

Many thanks to mentors Mark Herschberg '95 and Ralph Inglese '82, who cohosted a lively "Welcome to NYC" reception for local UPOP sophomores and alums.

UPOP is gearing up for a busy fall semester. We will graduate last year's sophomores and celebrate with our Fall Sendoff and Networking Event on September 10 (mentors welcome!). We're recruiting the Class of 2017 sophomores, and heading into the fall advising sessions, employer events, and professional development workshops.

As always, we appreciate your continued support!

The UPOP Team
Joel Schindall Director  |  Leo McGonagle Executive Director  |  Kate Moynihan Mentor Liaison/Event Planning  |  Bethany Walsh & Sharon Leary Student Relations Coordinators | Amy Bass Employer Relations Coordinator  |  Jessica Jones Senior Administrative Assistant

UPOP celebrates its new home in 1-123

UPOP's housewarming "Afternoon Tea" on August 20 brought many friends of UPOP to our new offices in Building 1-123 (easy to remember! Fibonacci would approve). From left: mentor Bob Vieraitis '80 and his daughter, Lydia, chat with UPOP's Bethany Walsh and Sharon Leary; cupcakes ~ in UPOP colors, of course; Professor Charles Leiserson and mentor Ed Keisling.
Internships: mentors making a difference

Of the hundreds of UPOP students working in industry and research this summer, more than 30 interned with a mentor's company, including: Air Liquide (Albert Atkins), Chevron (Jirong Xiao ‘90 & Mark Sztenderowicz ’82), Dassault Systemes (Jim Lambert ’76), IBM (Eletta Kershaw), Pioneer Natural Resources (Tim Dove ’79), Synaptics (Terry Higgins ’93), TMK IPSCO (Piotr Galitzine ’76) and Vecna Technologies (Ed Keisling).

UPOP staff visited close to 50 student summer intern sites this summer, engaging with current students, alums, employers and mentors throughout Massachusetts, New York City and the Bay Area.

Summer snapshots

Very motivated but unlucky in finding an electrical engineering internship last spring, UPOPer Germain Martinez ’16 worked closely with UPOP staff who connected him with mentor Terry Higgins ’93 at Synaptics. With Terry as his champion, Germain landed an internship at the 11th hour, working directly under Terry's guidance. Germain is "having the time of his life" and "learning tons of applied material for next semester" working in Synaptic's chip-testing and performance team.

Mentor Jim Lambert's ('76) company, Dassault Systemes, hired four UPOP sophomores for their sites in Waltham, Mass., and Los Angeles, Calif. Rachel Nations, Lesley Wang, Chrystal Chen and Eric Johnson worked across the organization's SolidWorks and Technical Support teams. All four thank Jim for helping them connect to their first "real" industry internship. UPOP staff had the opportunity to visit with students, employers and Jim at Dassault's Waltham location in July. Jim arranged a comprehensive tour of their site and a visit inside their virtual reality experience, "The Living Heart." We look forward to sending more sophomores Dassault's way!

Mentor Eletta Kershaw helped UPOP students Morgan Voss and Matthew Miklasevich, secure internships with IBM in Littleton, Mass. During UPOP's site visit, their supervisors enthused about the interns' performance and noted "every university should have a program like UPOP."

UPOP Advisory Board meeting

UPOP held its first UPOP Advisory Board meeting on July 22 with 17 members participating in person or remotely. UPOP staff had the opportunity to brief board members on the status and progress of the program and discuss curriculum and events for the coming year. Board members were able to provide suggestions regarding fundraising, recruiting new mentors and program supporters, expanding mentor engagement, and broadening UPOP’s footprint. We plan to meet again
in January and we're excited about the possibilities that working with this group brings.

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.

upop.mit.edu | upop@mit.edu | 617.253.0077
MIT | 77 Massachusetts Avenue, Bldg 1-123, Cambridge MA 02139