Dear Friend of UPOP:

As the academic year comes to a close, UPOP is working tirelessly to help our students prepare for their internships–holding an exclusive Apple networking event on May 5, Summer Prep workshops, and continuing with one-on-one consultations.

In other news, two UPOP alums won the grand prize at Harvard Business School's top entrepreneurship contest, and long-time mentors Mark Herschberg '95 and Ralph Inglese '82 are hosting an intern welcome event in New York in June.

This will be the final newsletter of this academic year. We'll return in late August with news of the summer internships ... and the globe is dotted with UPOPers!

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

Mentors Matter!

Congratulations to UPOP alums Kristin Kagetsu ('12, Oracle engineer) and Amrita Saigal ('10, Harvard MBA candidate), who swept Harvard Business School's top entrepreneurship contest, winning the grand prize and the Audience Choice award in the New Venture Competition's social entrepreneurship category.

When Amrita speaks to UPOP students, she impresses upon them the importance of UPOP's mentor connections. Her mentor in January 2008 was Jim Billmaier: "He was a great UPOP mentor," she says. "We have continued to stay in touch over the years. He wrote my HBS recommendation letter and has continued to give me great advice about my career throughout."

Meanwhile, some UPOP students this summer will enjoy the support of the extended UPOP community: long-time UPOP mentors Mark Herschberg '95 and Ralph Inglese '82 will host the "NYC UPOP Intern Welcome" this June. More than 15 sophomore interns and UPOP alums will mingle with the NYC UPOP community and make meaningful connections early in their summer experience. Many thanks to Mark and Ralph!
Interns here, there, everywhere ...

As this "word cloud" shows, Massachusetts and California are the big destinations for UPOP interns, with New York, Texas and Virginia also popular. Several students are headed for Germany, Israel and Spain, and even the Virgin Islands will have a student.

UPOP students find their internships through various avenues, but many make use of our considerable resources, including our extensive network of employers, mentors, and UPOP alums, together with job postings that are specific to UPOP. Our office helps students negotiate offers, find housing and transportation, and navigate tricky issues such as competing acceptance deadlines.

More than 200 UPOP sophomores (and counting!) have confirmed an industry internship this summer. Of this summer's reported internships, 50 percent are UPOP-affiliated, via UPOP-specific job postings and employer events, or through UPOP staff advisor, mentor or alum company connections.

We keep in touch with our students over the summer. They know they can contact us at any time, but we also make as many internship site visits as possible, meeting with the students and their supervisors. In addition, every student submits three progress reports, which we read carefully, providing feedback and further suggestions to ensure they get the maximum benefit from their internship.

Latest Innovations in Apple Product Design

Exclusive update for UPOP & SWE students

Even though it was a Monday and close to finals, there was standing room only when Kate Bergeron '93, senior product design manager for Apple, gave an exclusive update on the latest innovations in product design to students from UPOP and MIT's Society of Women Engineers (SWE).

UPOP partnered with SWE to host Kate and the Apple recruiting team. The 40+ students had an hour of lively Q&A and networking at this May 5 event, which was sponsored by Apple.

Kate Bergeron '93, Apple senior product design manager, advises UPOPers to be "willing to take risks and be able to passionately defend your design to managers."
Summer Prep Workshops
The "real world" gets closer

At two of UPOP’s Summer Prep workshops, Chris Resto ’99, founding director of UPOP, encouraged students to use their internships as an opportunity to build their networks and gain insight into different career paths.

UPOP strives to make sure that every student has a summer that advances their career paths. To this end, we hold a series of "Summer Prep" workshops to help our students make the most of their internships: show up on time, every time; explore their organization; think of long-term goals; seek out a mentor; ask for feedback; draw on the many skills they developed during their IAP workshop.

Chris Resto ’99, founding director of UPOP and now a mentor-instructor, was a guest presenter at two of the Summer Prep Workshops. Chris offered some great advice for students, encouraging them to have coffee or lunch each week with at least one full-time employee at their organization to help build their networks and get advice and insight into different career paths.

The Summer Prep workshops are part of UPOP’s yearlong professional development training curriculum, and are presented by Bethany Walsh and Sharon Leary, UPOP’s student relations coordinators.

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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