Dear Friend of UPOP:

We are very pleased to announce that our remarkable alumni mentor-instructors are being recognized by the MIT Alumni Association with two awards this year. As you will read below, one of the awards, the Great Dome Award, is the highest honor the Association bestows on any of its organizations.

In this, our last newsletter of the academic year, we highlight another of our annual corporate sponsors, Pioneer Natural Resources, which, as of this coming summer, will have hosted 23 interns. We also look at the near- and far-flung destinations our students are headed to this summer, and the workshops that help prepare them for outstanding internship experiences.

We'll be back in August, reporting on some of those internships!

With best wishes,

The UPOP Team
Joel Schindall Director | Leo McGonagle Executive Director | Kate Moyihan UPOP Mentor Liaison | Bethany Walsh & Sharon Leary UPOP Student Program | Amy Bass UPOP Employer Program | Jessica Jones UPOP Communications & Operations

Alumni Association honors mentors

UPOP would not be UPOP without the significant efforts of our mentor-instructors, many of whom come back year after year to coach our sophomores during our weeklong IAP workshops. We are very happy to report that the Alumni Association has acknowledged their contributions with two significant awards:

The Great Dome Award, the highest honor the Association bestows on any of its organizations, recognizes groups who have given distinguished service to the Institution or the Association. UPOP's "Alumni Veteran Mentors" are among the five groups honored in 2015.

In addition, two of the three recipients of this year's Henry B. Kane '24 Award are UPOP mentor-instructors, Mike Szeto '72 and Tim Dove '79, in recognition of their fundraising initiative among the mentors. This award, established in 1987, recognizes exceptional service and accomplishments in the area of fundraising for the Institute.

Both awards will be presented on Saturday, September 26, 2015, during the Alumni Leadership Conference. Three mentors will accept the Great Dome Award on behalf of our large cohort of long-time alumni/ae mentors--63, from 2002 to 2015.

For more about the awards and recipients, click here, and our thanks to Kate Moyihan, UPOP's mentor liaison coordinator, for spearheading and organizing the nominations.
At a recent UPOP Summer Prep Workshop, Veronica Nelson, university relations manager for Northrop Grumman, advises students on how to ace their internships. Ten UPOP sophomores are heading to Northrop Grumman this summer.

Preparing interns for their summers

"Remember: every day you are on the job as an intern, you are being interviewed for a full-time job," said Veronica Nelson, university relations manager at Northrop Grumman Corporation, during a UPOP Summer Prep Workshop.

By the time summer arrives, the UPOP sophomores have had two semesters of workshops, networking events, panel discussions with engineers, and field trips to employers, as well as one-on-one coaching with staff, but a final requirement is to attend one of four Summer Prep Workshops for coaching on navigating the workplace and making the most of their summer experiences. The workshops are presented by Sharon Leary and Bethany Walsh, student program coordinators. UPOP often also invites employers to give the inside scoop.

The students are encouraged to take the initiative, reach out and meet different people within the organization, and keep in close communication with their supervisors. Northrop Grumman's Nelson reminded the students that they...
UPOP Class of 2017 interns are heading for some fascinating projects in destinations near and far, from Cambridge to Cameroon, from flight to pharmaceuticals.

Bon voyage UPOP interns

After a year of prepping and mentoring, UPOP interns are ready to hit the ground running in a range of fascinating projects all over the globe: flight technology and testing at Bell Helicopter and SpaceX; software and digital development with Nike, Google and Square; R&D roles with W.L. Gore and Vertex Pharmaceuticals; trading and investment management with Goldman Sachs and Akuna Capital. And that's merely scratching the surface.

UPOPers will be working in the Bay Area and Southern California, Washington State, D.C, Boston, New York City, and Chicago, to name just a few hot spots. Many sophomores will also be engaging in research experiences, from labs at MIT to labs in Singapore and Switzerland, and, through MISTI opportunities, with BMW and Air Liquide. The award for our "furthest-flung UPOP intern" this year goes to the sophomore working with the Department of State in Cameroon!

We'll be making site visits to as many U.S. interns as we can, and reading all their progress reports with great interest.

UPOP’s Open House for Class of 2018 Freshmen: (L-R) Maria "Rosa" Ruiz ’17 checks out the team photos from her IAP workshop; UPOP alums introducing freshmen to the benefits of joining UPOP next year; freshmen looking at the IAP team photo board.

Freshmen learn about UPOP at Open House

The UPOP office was filled with freshmen who came to our Our "Ask Me Anything" Open House on Friday, May 8. They were joined by many past and present UPOPers who dropped by to answer their "Ask Me Anything" questions and elaborate on the benefits of a year of UPOP.
If you know any MIT freshmen, now's the time to spread the good word about UPOP. Applications (via our website) for the class of 2018 open mid-summer.

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.

MIT UPOP (Undergraduate Practice Opportunities Program) | 77 Massachusetts Avenue | 1-123 | Cambridge | MA | 02139