Dear Friend of UPOP:

One of our '10 alums (now at Apple) was asked to sum up UPOP in a nutshell. His answer was immediate: "It's a dose of the real world."

Our fall semester activities certainly live up to this: field trips to employers, mock interviews with employers, panel events with employers, information sessions with employers, and a special one-on-one résumé review evening with employers that was a great success.

Thus in just the past few weeks our students have been able to engage, at close quarters, with representatives from TripAdvisor, Vecna, MIT Lincoln Labs, Edelman and Associates, Terrafugia, Sonos, Proctor & Gamble, Saint-Gobain, Acadian Asset Management, MITRE Corporation, and Qualcomm.

We thank you for your continued support, and wish you a very happy Thanksgiving.

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

Students' "preparedness and intelligence" wows employers

Our two Mock Interview Nights gave students invaluable experience being interviewed by actual employers. Some students even received real interview offers from their mock interviewers, who were thoroughly impressed with the quality of the students. One employer commented:

"It was a very long day at work for me, but I left your event with more energy than I came with, as I found the sincerity, preparedness, and intelligence of your students infectious."

The interviewers included reps from TripAdvisor, Vecna, MIT Lincoln Labs, Edelman and Associates, Terrafugia, and Sonos to name a few. Nearly every student commented on how useful the experience was as they left their interview.

In addition to the Mock Interview Nights, our students have been eager to get a jump start on their internship searches by learning important search skills, attending UPOP workshops on résumés, cover letters, internship search basics, and interviewing.
UPOP Class of 2017 students have had more great opportunities in recent weeks to network with and learn from employers. **Left:** A JP Morgan lead technology and innovation manager addresses UPOP students' questions about his career path to JP Morgan. **Center:** Breakout networking session with Schlumberger scientists and engineers following their alum career panel. **Right:** UPOP sophomores engage with lead Sonos recruiter, Lauren Berger, during the Sonos field trip.

**Rich networking opportunities for UPOP students**

The fall semester has given our UPOP students outstanding industry engagement opportunities, including company-sponsored events, field trips, and educational sessions with industry professionals.

JP Morgan, a UPOP annual corporate sponsor, hosted an executive tech talk detailing opportunities and innovations in its Technology Division. UPOP students heard from senior analysts and recruiters during a lively Q&A and networking session. Schlumberger, another sponsor, held an exclusive alum career panel for UPOP students, with representatives attending from across their various R&D and field engineering divisions—even traveling from locations as far as away as Alaska just to meet with our students.

Sonos Electronics, "reinventing home audio for the digital age" and founded by an MIT alum, invited 15 sophomores to its Cambridge location for a tour, product demo, and professional development panel hosted by senior engineers and hiring managers. UPOPers stayed for an extra hour (no small feat for busy MIT students) to engage with Sonos representatives. In a perfect tie-in with UPOP's curriculum, during the Q&A portion Sonos engineers underlined the importance of communication skills "above all else--more than even technical expertise" in future career success.

Rounding out our fall industry events, representatives from Proctor & Gamble, Saint-Gobain, Acadian Asset Management, MITRE Corporation, and Qualcomm volunteered their evening to coach UPOPers in résumé development for industry. Over 30 students elected to participate in this "Employer Résumé Review Evening," both educational in nature as well as a fantastic networking opportunity with popular companies—companies that can be very challenging to get 1:1 time with at MIT...but not for UPOP students!

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.