Dear Friend of UPOP:

The extra space in our new offices has been very welcome as we start working with our biggest class ever. Students have been flocking in for résumé reviews, our "Ask an Alum Popcorn Friday" series, and seeking a head start on the internship search process. "Proactive" seems to be the hallmark of our Class of 2017 UPOPer!

As you'll see below, they've already had rich opportunities to network with employers through sponsored evening information sessions and field trips.

And we give a warm welcome to the youngest member of the UPOP family: Bethany Walsh, one of our two student relations coordinators, and her husband Davis, had a baby girl, Finley Harper Walsh, on October 23!

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

Making the most of UPOP

The UPOP year for the Class of 2017 began with reinvented Welcome Workshops, introducing students to the opportunities they now have as UPOP students. (Of course, we titled the workshops "UPOPportunities.") Students rotated around the room to learn about Advising and Coaching, Internships, the IAP Team Training Camps, and Workshops and Events. We were happy to see over 200 students at these events, all enthused about their UPOPportunities!

The first requirement for each student in the program is to meet with student program staff to discuss their goals and interests and
create a game plan for making the most of their time in UPOP and for getting their internship search started.

UPOP students are also required to have a UPOP-approved résumé. For many students this means learning the basics of creating a professional résumé in a workshop. For others, it means meeting with staff for a review. Our new drop-in résumé review times in our bright, open office have been popular.

The final requirement for students this fall is to attend one of our à la carte events. There's a long list of events students can attend for this requirement, including employer events and professional development workshops, but one of the favorites is our Ask an Alum Popcorn Friday series. These events are open-house, topical, Q & A sessions for students to learn about internship opportunities in various industries from students who have actually had these internships: our PostPoppers. There's a lot of energy as current students network with and learn from former students, and, of course, there's freshly popped popcorn!

IAP plans taking shape

UPOP is a year-long program, but, for many, "UPOP" means January, when we hold our two major workshops over MIT's Independent Activities Period (IAP).

The dates of the two Class of 2017 week-long workshops this year are:

- January 12-16, 2015
- January 26-30, 2015

The schedule (with two new modules) and presenters are pretty much in place, and our mentor-instructor recruitment team, which includes some veteran mentors, has been actively seeking to broaden the diversity of our mentor roster.

We will also be holding a spring workshop over Presidents' Day weekend, Feb 14-16, 2015.

For those who may have missed the links to the photo albums for IAP of January 2014 and the spring workshop of 2014, here they are:

- [Class of 2016, Week 1, January 2014](#)
- [Class of 2016, Week 2, January 2014](#)
- [Class of 2016, Spring Workshop, March 2014](#)

Early momentum for employer engagement
UPOP students are given many opportunities to connect with "the real world." LEFT: UPOP '17 Suri Bander and Akamai CEO Tom Leighton PhD '81 discuss potential Akamai internship opportunities in Israel this coming summer. RIGHT: At the Pioneer Study Break, UPOP alums Andrew Sommer '13 and Patrick Dayton '14 discussed their internship (and current full-time!) experiences working at Pioneer Natural Resources, consistently one of our most popular employers each year with students -- thanks in no small part to Tim Dove, president of Pioneer & UPOP mentor.

The early fall semester has seen energetic engagement between employers and UPOP students. Less than one month in, UPOP has already posted more than 15 internships across industries, and a new initiative, "Internship Search Office Hours," has brought pro-active UPOPer to the office in droves to get an early kick-start to their summer job search.

Students have made early connections with a variety of industry professionals via sponsored company info sessions and alum panels with Pioneer Natural Resources, JP Morgan, TMK IPSCO and Schlumberger. Early in the semester, UPOP sophomores and juniors were treated to a networking reception and open house with annual UPOP sponsor, Akamai Technologies. Akamai unveiled its brand-new space in Kendall Square and our students had a unique opportunity to chat with recruiters, senior engineers and hiring managers--including none other than Akamai's CEO (and current Course 6 professor), Tom Leighton PhD '81. Many students also enjoyed an evening with Dr. Joel Bass, Chair of Pediatrics at Newton-Wellesley Hospital, who discussed his long career in medicine and offered advice to students considering the path to medical school.

Our field trips to local engineering companies have included Google, Aurora Flight Sciences and Sonos Electronics.

Our corporate sponsorship program has continued its robust growth: we are well on our way to raising $75K by January 2015, with an overall goal of $100K by the end of this academic year. UPOP is grateful for the generous support of all its corporate sponsors -- many mentors' companies included!

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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