Dear Friend of UPOP:

We just said farewell to our fantastic Class of 2016, but are thrilled to welcome the Class of 2017! We had yet another year of record-breaking applications (553, with some wait-listers trickling in), and look forward to welcoming the new class at our Welcome Workshops this week.

Many thanks to UPOP mentor-instructors Jim Lambert '76, Bob Vieraitis '80, and Ed Keisling, who came to our evening information sessions and spoke eloquently to new sophomores about UPOP and how it can help them in the "real world." As the application numbers attest, their eloquence was effective!

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

Farewell to UPOP Class of 2016!

The outgoing UPOP Class of 2016 was celebrated in style with a hearty buffet and the opportunity to engage in even more networking with many employers including Akamai, Affectiva and Schlumberger. The September 10 event, sponsored by Shell, a long-time UPOP supporter, was attended by two UPOP mentor-instructors who are also UPOP employers: chatting to students, at center, Ed Keisling, of Vecna, and at right, Jim Lambert (with Joel Schindall), of Dassault Systèmes.

UPOP students present posters at ALC event
Five UPOP Class of 2016 students had the opportunity to discuss their summer internships with many MIT alums at the student poster reception held during the Alumni Leadership Conference on Friday September 19 at the Stratton Student Center. Twenty graduate students and five UPOP students participated in the event, which invited the students to share insights about their work and experiences, and solicit feedback on their poster and presentation skills. (Three other UPOP Class of 2016 students also did posters, but were unable to attend the event. All eight posters are here.)

Voice of the UPOP alum ...

As has often been observed by UPOP alums who have been out in industry for some time, it can take a few years to really appreciate the value of their UPOP year.

We had another reminder of this recently, when Leslie Nachbar '10 SM '11, and now with W. L. Gore & Associates in Elkton, Md., wrote to us:

"I fully credit UPOP with changing the way I thought about entering industry and working as both a leader and as a scientist, and not just as a smart brain from MIT. One my strongest memories from my time at MIT was during IAP, when the concept of engineering specifications was first introduced. It was like a wake-up call for me—that working as a scientist in industry was different from learning as a scientist in academia.

"Now that I am in industry, I can think of many examples of similar discoveries—how innovation works, how to structure a project for the highest chance of success, how to work with scientists and engineers from older generations, and (I think the biggest discovery of all) what corporate culture is like, and how the culture of the workplace drives *everything*—from productivity to job satisfaction."

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 | upop.mit.edu | upop@mit.edu | 617.253.0077