Dear Friend of UPOP,

I'm thrilled and proud to let you know that the School of Engineering has selected the UPOP staff to receive one of this year’s *Infinite Mile Awards for Team Excellence*. This is a big honor, and it is very well deserved. I want to thank the many mentors and students who supported the nomination by writing letters of support. They were wonderful testimonials and I believe that they played a significant role in the award evaluation.

The award ceremony will be held on Wednesday, May 25, at 3 pm in the Grier Rooms (34-401 A & B).

I know you join me in congratulating the staff on the award, but I also want to mention that we couldn’t have done it without you. Some of you were instrumental in getting UPOP started and helping to build it to where it is now; some of you participate as mentors or support the program in other ways; many of you have made the program possible with your donations; and I couldn’t conclude without acknowledging those of you who make it all worthwhile: the students who have taken the program.

In addition to the Infinite Mile award, we had a great UPOP event in Dallas earlier this month, and I want to thank UPOP donor and mentor Tim Dove, of Pioneer Natural Resources, for sponsoring the evening. I’d also like to extend my thanks and appreciation to the MIT Club of Dallas for co-sponsoring, as well as the UPOP graduates who participated, the development office staff who helped with the logistics and/or attended, the UPOP staff who helped with the preparations (including Amy Bass who accompanied me), and the wonderfully supportive alumni who attended the event.

And if I can take a moment to speak to those of you who have taken the program, I want to remind you that UPOP is never "over." Just as you will always be a UPOP graduate, you always have the opportunity to take every interaction, every assignment, and every endeavor, and use your communication, teamwork and decision-making skills to make the most of it. I urge you to engage and to use your UPOP background to the fullest. You are the ultimate reason that UPOP is great.

Finally, I’d like to remind you to check out the [new UPOP video](#) if you haven’t already done so.

With best wishes,

Joel Schindall ’63
Director

**Undergraduate Practice Opportunities Program**
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Joel Schindall Director  |  Kate Moynihan Outreach & Mentor Liaison Coordinator  |  Bethany Walsh & Sharon Leary Student Program Coordinators  |  Amy Bass
Program Manager Employer Relations  |  Jessica Jones Communications & Operations Coordinator  |  Eliana Runyon Manager of Finance and Administration
Pioneer Natural Resources is not lacking in MIT alums (including its president). At the April 13 UPOP evening hosted by Pioneer and the MIT Alumni Club of Dallas, from L to R: David Legault ’06, Ben Potash ’14; Andrew Sommer ’13; Patrick Dayton ’14; Brandon Lowe ’14, Rob Bertucci ’14. The middle four are all UPOP alums!

Pioneer Hosts UPOP Reception in Dallas

UPOP mentor Tim Dove ’79, president and COO of Pioneer Natural Resources, partnered with the MIT Alumni Club of Dallas to host a reception on April 13 to showcase the impact of UPOP on the MIT undergraduate experience.

Four UPOP alums, Andrew Sommer ’13, Ben Potash ’14, Patrick Dayton ’14 and Brandon Lowe ’14, who are now full-time employees of Pioneer, attended the event, which was held at the Petroleum Club of Dallas. Close to 70 MIT alums and Class of 2019 parents came to learn about UPOP's mission to develop sophomores' communication, teamwork and decision-making skills via access to relevant summer internships in industry, one-to-one coaching, mentoring and professional development workshops.

MIT Alumni Club of Dallas president, Damian Fernandez-Lamela MBA ’07, opened the reception, introducing Tim Dove. Tim discussed his rewarding personal experience as a mentor, as well as the positive impact on his organization in hiring UPOP-trained interns and graduates. UPOP director Joel Schindall followed, remarking on the long-term effects of the program on MIT graduates entering industry, and discussing opportunities to become involved as a mentor and donor. Amy Bass, UPOP's employer relations manager, highlighted the avenues for alums to engage as an employer of UPOP interns, before turning the floor over to the four UPOP alums now working at Pioneer.

Andrew, Ben, Patrick and Brandon spoke enthusiastically about their experience with UPOP, praising the program's professional development training and networking opportunities, the "care that UPOP mentors take in approaching the January workshop training," and the effectiveness of UPOP's "throwing students into the real world" by exposing them to engineering and business challenges early on in their undergraduate careers.

A lively Q&A session followed, and the evening ended with informal networking.

You can see photos of the event here.
UPOP connects young employers (many are UPOP alums!) with the students over our dinner series, "Industry Rotations: Advice from Early-Career Professionals."

Advice from young alum employers

UPOP students engaged with recent alums at three of our spring events, "Industry Rotations: Advice from Early-Career Professionals."

This dinner series provides students with the opportunity to engage in informal group discussions with industry employees who were in their shoes not too long ago, and to learn about the variety of unique career paths one can take.

The events have been popular since their inception a few years ago, but this year was extra special as six of the twelve industry volunteers were UPOP alums. UPOP staff have enjoyed reengaging with these alums, and look forward to continuing to expand the UPOP community.

With 15 years of experience in delivering workshops that teach topics related to team effectiveness and presentations, UPOP was asked to lend its know-how and collaborate on delivering a one-day workshop to the MIT Sandbox and $100K competition teams.

The MIT Sandbox Innovation Fund Program is a new, seed-funding program open to all MIT undergraduate and graduate students, and the $100K is a 25-year-old entrepreneurship competition. The teams from both programs participating in the one-day workshop were gearing up to pitch their company and product ideas to funding boards.

UPOP workshop presenters Chuck McVinney and Peter Bubriski presented versions of their UPOP modules on the Herrmann Whole Brain model and Presenting Professionally, respectively. Kate Moynihan, UPOP mentor liaison coordinator, was the day's MC, and Sharon Leary, UPOP student program coordinator, delivered a brief presentation on the characteristics of effective teams and developing team agreements. The workshop also included modules on pitch deck design, what VC's are looking for, and prototyping and design thinking.
MIT Open House

MIT celebrated the 100th Anniversary of its move from Back Bay to Cambridge with an Open House on Saturday, April 23. More than 40,000 members of the public came to campus--many of them apparently lining up at the UPOP booth on the Kresge lawn for our free popcorn and balloons! And, too, to talk to our students about their fulfilling UPOP internships. From L to R, students with their posters: Chelsea Edwards ’17 (LiquiGlide); Molly Tracy ’16 (MITRE); David Gomez ’17 (Sonos); Allison Hallock ’16 (Pioneer); Anuj Khandelwal ’17 (Lincoln Laboratory); Daniel Vignon ’17 (Electricité de France). Not pictured: Hannah Capponi ’17, who also interned at Pioneer.

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, MIT alums, and other friends of the program. UPOP offers numerous opportunities for MIT alums and companies to get involved--as speakers, coaches, employers, and sponsors.

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