Dear Friend of UPOP,

At a time when most departments are winding down for the winter break, UPOP is in full-steam-ahead mode in preparation for the two weeklong workshops we hold each January during MIT's Independent Activities Period (IAP).

This year we are happy to welcome 15 new mentors, who will join 43 returning mentors to coach hundreds of UPOP sophomores through experiential modules that focus on UPOP's themes of communication, decision-making, and teamwork. Each activity has learning objectives that are specific to one or more of these themes and are sequenced to "snowball": one adds to another adds to another, and students are able to incorporate learning throughout the week as they continue to work with each other.

New this year: Two of our mentors, Rich Kremsdorf '69 and Paul Edelman '78, have collaborated (at great and appreciated length!) on a new module, "Team Creativity," and there will be a new format for Team Presentations, incorporating both peer-to-peer presentations with feedback, as well as scored presentations in front of a board of mentors.

With best wishes for a very happy holiday season,

The UPOP Team
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

"Career Fairs" exclusive to UPOP students
Students hone their internship-search skills

Nearly 30 students popped into our final "Popcorn Friday" of the semester, which featured a grab-bag of activities including résumé and cover-letter reviews, internship-search coaching, and networking practice with long-time mentor Ed Keisling, VP of Technical Services at Vecna Technologies. The event served as the perfect prep for the coming Team Training Workshops, where students will have the opportunity to network with more than 100 employers at the Networking Luncheons.
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.