Dear Friend of UPOP,

With our students already heading off to summer internships far and wide, the UPOP office is strangely empty—but still busy: we are planning our site visits to as many students and their supervisors as possible, not just in Massachusetts but in key hubs such as New York and California. We are also in the process of redoing the back end of our website with its vast database of students, employers, and mentors; preparing for the UPOP Advisory Board meeting in July; and we are already preparing for the next core workshops to be held in 2017 over IAP and Presidents' Day Weekend.

This is the last edition of the UPOP newsletter for this academic year. We will be back in August with news of the many site visits and the progress reports that our students send in during their internships.

As you will read below, the UPOP team was the very happy recipient of this year’s School of Engineering Infinite Mile Award for Team Excellence, and we would like to thank the many colleagues, mentors, and UPOP alums who so enthusiastically supported our nomination!

With best wishes for a restful summer,

The UPOP Team

Undergraduate Practice Opportunities Program
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Joel Schindall Director | Kate Moynihan Outreach & Mentor Liaison Coordinator | Amy Bass
Bethany Walsh & Sharon Leary Student Program Coordinators | Jessica Jones Communications & Operations Coordinator | Eliana Runyon Manager of Finance and Administration
The UPOP team was treated to lunch before the Infinite Mile Award ceremony by Tina Lambert, an active "Friend of UPOP" (and wife of UPOP mentor Jim Lambert ’76). From left: Amy Bass, Jessica Jones, Sharon Leary, Tina Lambert, Bethany Walsh, and Kate Moynihan.

UPOP wins SOE Infinite Mile Team Award
The UPOP team was honored with the 2016 School of Engineering Infinite Mile Team Award for Excellence at a ceremony on May 25 held in the Grier Room, Building 34, and hosted by Dean Ian Waitz. Nominations supporting UPOP came from many mentors and UPOP alums, and the UPOP team was very happy (and surprised) to have mentors Jim Lambert ’76 and Rich Kremsdorf ’69 and their wives join the ceremony's large gathering of colleagues, family and friends.

The Infinite Mile Awards were launched in 2001 (coincidentally the year UPOP was launched), and are given to teams and individuals for significant accomplishments in their departments, labs or centers. Photos of the event are here, and the event's citations are here.

Although most UPOP students this year are working in Massachusetts, a large number are heading to California, New York, Texas, and many other states and countries far away.

UPOP Students Cover the World
After a year of prepping and mentoring, UPOP interns are ready to hit the ground running in a range of fascinating projects all over the globe: defense and missile control at Boeing and Lockheed Martin; embedded software and programming with Bose, Apple, Microsoft and Fitbit; R&D roles with Corning, NASA, Biogen; engineering design with Tesla Motors and Ford; trading and investment management with Goldman Sachs and Jane Street Capital. (And that's
merely scratching the surface.)

UPOPers will be working in the Bay Area and Southern California, Chicago, Washington State, D.C, Boston, New York City, and Texas to name just a few hot spots. Many sophomores will also be engaging in research experiences both here on campus and at universities across the globe in Singapore, Spain, France and China. The award for our "furthest flung UPOP intern" this year goes to the sophomore working on an independent project in his home country of Burundi!

Of note: more than 50 percent of this year's domestic internships were facilitated directly by UPOP--via a job posting, or meeting an employer at one of the many networking opportunities we provide throughout the year.

We'll be making site visits to as many U.S. interns as we can, and reading all their progress reports with great interest.

**Summer Internships are Opportunities to Excel**

With students heading far and wide, many of them to work in the “real world” for the first time, UPOP holds several mandatory summer send-off workshops to coach the students in how to make the most of their internships, navigate the workplace in a positive way, and enhance their professional reputation.

Bethany Walsh and Sharon Leary, our student program coordinators, encourage the students to get fully engaged in their projects, be flexible and creative with solutions to workplace problems, and "walk away from the summer having them remember you for your great work."

Happily, our employers tell us that what they like about UPOP interns is that they have a good work ethic, they get the job done, and they have an impact in the companies where they work. That’s what UPOP is all about.

One biotech employer remarked of his several UPOP interns who have published papers in peer-reviewed journals based on their internship work at his company: "That’s what I love about working with these interns. Not all people of that age have the desire and drive to take something on, figure it out, and see it through without somebody telling them what to do every step of the way."

We're proud of how our UPOP students behave in their internships, and we wish all of our students a great summer experience.
can offer them when they come back to campus as sophomores. The event was well attended, including a visit by UPOP director Joel Schindall (top right), and a UPOP alum, Oscar Viquez ’13 (bottom row, left), back on campus for his PhD and a frequent visitor to the UPOP office!

UPOP Class of 2018:
Team Training Workshop Albums

IAP Session 1, Jan 11-15, 2016
Team Photos
Week in Review

IAP Session 2, Jan 25-29, 2016
Team Photos
Week in Review

Presidents' Day Weekend, Feb 13-15, 2016
Team Photos
Weekend in Review

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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