Dear Friend of UPOP,

As we approach the January and February Team Training Workshops, it is worth noting the breadth and depth of background and experience represented by the team of mentors who will be coaching our students.

A sampling of the current roster includes: a retired vice president of research and technology commercialization for 3M; a physician turned database system developer; a principal in McKinsey’s San Francisco office as well as a former McKinsey management consultant; the head of the American Division of TMK; the CFO of Dassault Systèmes Simulia Corp; the COO of Takeda’s Global Vaccine Business; both the project manager and the deputy project scientist for the New Horizons Mission to Pluto; a region general manager for Air Liquide; a former senior vice president and CTO at Oracle; a former vice president for Corporate Development at IBM; the president and COO of Pioneer Natural Resources; and the vice chairman of the Department of Anesthesiology, Perioperative and Pain Medicine at Boston Children’s Hospital.

A few of the companies and organizations represented by the 2016 mentors are: Silicon Labs; Medimmune; Synaptics; Microsoft; Thomson Reuters; Sandia National Laboratories; Chevron Oronite; Menlo Innovations; Stratus Technologies, and GE Aviation.

Our weeklong workshops thus give UPOP students an extraordinary opportunity not only to benefit from a wealth of experience, but also to establish serious networking connections that can be of immeasurable help as they move ahead in their careers.

With best wishes,

The UPOP Team
Undergraduate Practice Opportunities Program
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Joel Schindall Director | Kate Moynihan Mentor Liaison & Outreach 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

In-depth engagement with employers

UPOP takes the “practice” part of its name seriously, and makes sure that our students have abundant opportunities to engage frequently and meaningfully with a wide range of employers, through field trips and on-campus networking and panel events. Some recent UPOP events:

Schlumberger: 15 lucky UPOP students had the opportunity to tour Schlumberger’s Doll Research Center in Kendall Square. The field trip took UPOP students and staff through some of the break-through drilling
globally. UPOPers also had the chance to learn more about summer and full-time opportunities with Schlumberger's recruiter and principal scientists and engineers.

**Pioneer Natural Resources**: One of our most popular employers, annual sponsor Pioneer Natural Resources, held an information evening on campus for UPOP students. A large, Texas-based, independent oil and gas company, Pioneer has hired dozens of UPOPers since the president and COO, Tim Dove '79, joined as a UPOP mentor in 2010. UPOP alums Andrew Sommer '13 and Pat Dayton '14 spoke about their internship experiences with Pioneer and their current full-time roles, followed by Q&A and networking.

**Sonos**: UPOP partnered with Sonos for an exclusive field trip, product demo, and networking opportunity in its Cambridge offices. 15 UPOP sophomores had the opportunity to tour their site, see inside the hardware and product design labs for their latest speaker models, and learn more about the company's mission -- and how UPOP interns may have the opportunity to help them achieve it. A terrific opportunity for aspiring UPOP product design engineers!

**Apple**: UPOP was honored to partner with Apple for an executive tech talk and reception with their VP of Ecosystems Products, Kate Bergeron '93. Over 100 UPOP and GEL students took advantage of the opportunity to learn more about Kate's career path and role within Apple and network with engineers! Kate's talk was followed by a reception with approximately 20 Apple mechanical engineers (including many UPOP alums!) and recruiters.

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Top row: **Schlumberger field trip**: UPOP staff, sophomores, juniors and seniors with Schlumberger's lead recruiter, Nadim Mikati (far left); Julius Kusuma '06, principal scientist and program manager, Telemetry, with Schlumberger, briefs UPOPers on SLB's history and current technologies

Middle row: **Sonos field trip**: Kerry Nugent (far left), Sonos campus recruiting manager, leads UPOP sophomores on a tour through Sonos' Cambridge site; **Pioneer**: UPOP alums Pat Dayton '14 and Andrew Sommer '13 talk about their internship and full-time experiences at Pioneer

Bottom row: **Apple Executive Tech Talk**: More than 100 UPOP and GEL students came to hear Kate Bergeron '93, Apple VP of Ecosystems Products, talk about her career path; alums Jeremy Franklin '09 and Ariadne Smith '10, both UPOP & GEL alums, accompanied Kate
Valuable real-world interview experiences for UPOP students

Dozens of UPOP students took advantage of our popular fall Mock Interview Nights, where seasoned industry volunteers interview our students for mock jobs, offering them valuable feedback so that they are well prepared for their internship search.

The interviewers come from many and diverse companies, such as Shell, BitSight, The New York Times, Ab Initio, Optum, Terrafugia, TripAdvisor, Lincoln Labs, Vecna, Sonos, Affectiva and Northrop Grumman.

In addition, many employers volunteered for our Employer Résumé Review Night, giving students tips on format and content, and letting them know what they look for in a competitive résumé.

The benefits of this exposure to the real world are not lost on the students. As two Class of 2017 UPOP alums recently observed:

"I definitely got so much more out of UPOP than I ever expected to, and though I was initially annoyed by all the requirements I'd have to commit to, most of them were super helpful and I'm glad to have been a part of it."

"Thanks for all your help in the last year with résumés and interviewing tips and cover-letter advice. You guys are a great resource to have in my back pocket."

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.