Dear Friend of UPOP:

It's rare, each October, to find a quiet moment in the UPOP office: in addition to our many fall workshops and employer events, we meet individually with each new student, to get to know them, to go over their résumés, and to help them formulate their goals for the year and beyond. UPOP is not just about getting a summer internship: we encourage the students to think about "G+10," i.e. where do they want to be a decade after they graduate, and how can this sophomore year and this internship help towards that goal?

With almost 500 students having applied (46.5% of the sophomore class), this is not an insignificant undertaking. However, these individual meetings are a key part of the program:

"It's not so much about the questions the students have now," says UPOP student relations coordinator Bethany Walsh, "but about the questions they will have in the future. Once they've come into the office and met us once, they feel comfortable dropping by again and again, and will take advantage of our 'open door / no question too small' policy."

In fact, many UPOPers continue to seek guidance from and provide support to UPOP throughout their school years and beyond, often returning to MIT as recruiters--with a particular focus on the latest group of UPOP students with their ability to "hit the ground running" in an internship.

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

Busy October lays the groundwork for a productive internship search

We kicked off the year with Welcome Workshops, introducing new UPOPers to the "UPOPorpportunities" (sorry, we can't resist) they will have this year, and to the dedicated staff who will be working with them.

The office is awash with students, as we meet with each one individually to get to know them and their interests, and make plans to meet their goals.
October is also a busy month for workshops and events: we'll be presenting workshops on résumés, interviewing, cover letters, basic internship search steps, and more. We also have four staff members handling résumé drop-in hours to make sure that every student's résumé meets a high standard.

With the job-search essentials under their belts, students can go to the next level, interacting with actual employers at our Mock Interview and Employer Résumé Review nights, which are very popular events.

Abundant employer engagement opportunities in fall semester

UPOP offers an unprecedented array of opportunities this fall for students to engage with employers, beginning with October's weekly offerings of industry sessions, which included the first of three employer mock interview nights scheduled this year.

Before fall closes, UPOP sophomores will have had the chance to engage with more than 35 companies and dozens of industry representatives, including employers from AstraZeneca, Terrafugia, MIT Lincoln Laboratory, JetBrains, Lockheed Martin, Qualcomm, Edelman & Associates, Dassault Systèmes, and many more. More than a dozen companies chose UPOP to exclusively sponsor their on-campus industry events this October and November including alum panels and networking sessions with Goldman Sachs and Pioneer Natural Resources, information sessions with Ab Initio, Akamai Technologies, Northrop Grumman and IBM Watson, and company field trips with Saint-Gobain, Schlumberger, and Sonos Electronics.

On October 21, UPOP was honored to partner with Apple for an executive tech talk and reception with their VP of Ecosystems Products, Kate Bergeron ’93. Along with the opportunity to learn more about Kate’s career path and role within Apple, the talk was followed by a lively reception with Apple engineers and recruiters -- an incredible face-time opportunity for UPOP students.

The always popular "UPOP@Google" annual field trip and technical workshop on October 26 offered sophomores the chance to tour Google's Cambridge offices, meet engineers across teams, and learn from the pros how to best approach their technical interviews.

Dozens of employers are already beginning to recruit UPOP students, posting internships exclusive to sophomores, including opportunities with Apple, Kamcord, 3Red Trading, Sandia National Laboratories, Northrop Grumman, MIT Lincoln Laboratory, Vecna Technologies, and US Army Corps of Engineers - and we're just getting started!

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.