Dear Friend of UPOP:

Our UPOP mentors received some well-deserved recognition at the Alumni Leadership Conference dinner on September 26, as you will read below. Their several awards included the Great Dome Award and the Henry B. Kane ‘24 Award.

September finds the UPOP office in full swing recruiting the Class of 2018. Mentors Jim Lambert ’76 of Dassault Systèmes and Ed Keisling of Vecna spoke eloquently of the value of UPOP, from their points of view as both mentors and employers, when they addressed our information sessions.

For our graduating Class of 2017, we held individual and small-group closing conferences for our students to help them incorporate their summer experience into their résumés and “elevator talks.” In addition, many employers attended the Class of 2017 UPOP graduation evening, giving the students additional networking practice—just in time for the Career Fair on September 25. Many new alums dropped by our booth to report how much more confident they were at this fair, after a UPOP year of workshops and “real world” practice.

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

UPOP mentors celebrated their awards at the Alumni Leadership Conference dinner, held September 26. From left: Paul Green ’73, Bob Lambert ’76, Jen Pinson ’98, Paul Edelman ’78, Bob Vieraitis ’80, Mike Szeto ’72, Jo Ivester ’77, Jo Ivester ’77, Barry Bronfin ’60, Debby Stein Sharpe ’76, Raji Patel ’77, Ralph Inglese ’82, Joe Levitch ’69, and Marissa Martinez ’82.
Great Dome and Henry Kane among awards given to UPOP mentors at ALC dinner

The Alumni Association recognized the important contribution UPOP's mentors make to the program by giving them two significant awards:

The Great Dome Award, the highest honor the Association bestows on any of its organizations, recognizes groups who have given distinguished service to the Institute or the Association. UPOP's "Alumni Veteran Mentors" were among the five groups honored. UPOP mentors Jim Lambert '76, Paul Edelman '78 and Jen Pinson '98 accepted the awards at the September 26 Alumni Leadership Awards dinner on behalf of the 63 long-time alumni/ae mentors who have given unstintingly of their time and experience to UPOP students since the program began in AY 2001-2002.

In addition, UPOP mentors Mike Szeto '72 and Tim Dove '79 were two of the three recipients of this year's Henry B. Kane '24 Award, which was given in recognition of their fundraising initiative among the mentors. This award, established in 1987, recognizes exceptional service and accomplishments in the area of fundraising for the Institute.

Another three UPOP mentors were multiple awardees. Paul Edelman and Joe Levitch '69 received a second Great Dome Award for their work on the Public Service Center Leadership Council.

Mentor Deborah Stein Sharpe '76 was one of eight recipients of the George B. Morgan '20 Award. The Morgan Award, established in 1979, recognizes sustained excellence in all aspects of Educational Council (EC) activity.

Several other UPOP mentors and their guests attended the event, including Barry Bronfin '60, Glenn Graham '77, Paul Green '73, Ann Guo '98, Ralph Inglese '82, Jo and Jon Ivester (both '77), Marissa Martinez '82, Raji Patel '77, and Bob Vieraitis '80. UPOP itself was represented by Kate Moynihan, our mentor liaison coordinator, who spearheaded and organized the Great Dome and Kane nominations.

You can read more about the awards and the recipients here.

Class of 2017 UPOP graduates line up to talk to Shell engineers Jonathan Kane PhD '08 and Daniel Kubaczyk '11 at UPOP's graduation evening.

UPOP Class of 2017 graduation event offered many networking opportunities

In keeping with UPOP's motto of "let no opportunity for networking slip by," our Class of 2017 had, as their graduation event, an evening of great food and the chance to chat at length with the 17 company representatives who attended.

The event was sponsored by Shell, whose three representatives had a very busy evening as students lined up to talk to them, armed with résumés and their well-rehearsed elevator talks.

The other companies attending included: Affectiva, BCG, Cisco Systems, Dassault Systèmes, InterSystems, Lockheed Martin, Merck, TripAdvisor,
Many UPOP alums return as employers at MIT Career Fair 2015

MIT's annual Career Fair, which brings hundreds of companies to campus, has become something of an impromptu UPOP alumni/ae gathering, with dozens of alums attending the fair on behalf of their companies. UPOP alums could be seen everywhere in a variety of companies and roles across industry, including Apple, Google, Fitbit, W.L. Gore, Boston Consulting Group, Precision Advisors, Corning, Compass Automation, Quizlet, Capital One, Ginger.io, Adobe, Kamcord, The New York Times, Domeyard LLC, Groupon, Sonos Electronics, OnShape, Synaptics, and many more.

Many thanked the program staff for helping them on their career paths:

- **William Yashar** '15, a consultant with Precision Advisors, noted: "I have to thank UPOP for all the help during my senior year when I decided to take a year off [before medical school]. I love what I'm doing now and I have UPOP to thank for advising me throughout the process."

- **Leslie Nachbar** '08, an engineer with W.L. Gore, said "Gore held an information session last night and I told all the sophomore attendees to make sure they apply to UPOP this year."

- **Jane Cotler** '14, now working full-time with The New York Times Technology Division, emphasized the role UPOP has played in her professional life: "I love my work and I truly would not be in the position I am without UPOP. I received the job posting [for the Technology Internship Program] through UPOP and UPOP partnered with their recruiter for résumé reviews that same week, building my confidence to apply. I interned with the company throughout my years at MIT [and] now I'm with the New York Times full time -- all thanks to UPOP!"
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.