PREUSSline

FALL 2013





(From left to right) Senior Motasim Malik with school founders Cecil Lytle and Peggy and Peter Preuss.

Preuss School Earns High Marks

For the third year in a row, The Preuss School UCSD has been named the top transformative school in the country by Newsweek magazine. The "America's Best High Schools" issue lauded Preuss for its ability to prepare low-income and first-generation students for college and beyond.

The Preuss School was also named one of the top five charter high schools in California in a University of Southern California report, which was developed to strengthen accountability among the state's charter schools. The report looks at multiple measures of financial health and academic performance, including state test scores, curriculum rigor, graduation rate and college-readiness.

A MATTER OF TIME

Ensuring the Transformative Power of a Preuss Education

At The Preuss School UCSD, one of the ways we prepare our students to become first-time college attendees is through a longer school day and school year. Our students are in school longer each day and for 23 days more than the typical student in California. After completing middle and high school, Preuss students have accumulated almost an entire extra academic year.

With that additional time, we have been able to develop an environment where students are challenged academically and are empowered to think critically. We also use the time to offer art, music and physical education—subjects that are increasingly cut from other schools yet have been shown to improve students' educational outcomes.

The results speak for themselves. All 96 students in the class of 2013—Preuss' tenth graduating class—were accepted to a four-year college or university. This was a milestone for our school, which

already boasted a 90 percent or higher acceptance rate for each graduating class. Many of our more than 850 graduates have gone on to attend colleges and universities such as Harvard, Yale, MIT, Stanford, Columbia, Cornell and Dartmouth as well as all of the schools in the University of California system.

To ensure that future Preuss students have the same opportunities, we have launched a multiyear Campaign for Longer Learning Time. Through the campaign, you can support the longer school day and year at Preuss by funding or endowing the extra days of instruction that are not covered by the state. Gifts of any size will make a difference to our students and ensure that the transformative power of a Preuss education is available for generations to come.

Learn more about the campaign, and how you can help, at **preuss.ucsd.edu/campaign**.





- Another year, another opportunity to welcome new and returning students to campus. Thank you to everyone who attended our annual
 - **First Day of Classes Welcome** event and helped us kick off the school year. The event has become another way to let our students know that we're here to support them, every step of the way.
- Congratulations to Preuss alumna Thuy Hua
 '09 who was named a Fulbright Scholar.
 Hua, who graduated from Occidental College
 in June, is now conducting research in the
 Czech Republic as part of the Fulbright U.S.
 Student Program.



Thuy Hua '09



Anne Artz

Science department chair Anne Artz is currently representing Preuss in Washington, D.C., as a representative and promoter of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education. Artz was one of only 27 K–12 educators selected nationwide to become a Congressional Fellow for the 2013–2014 Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship Program.

Thank you to everyone who voted for Preuss through the **Give with Target** event. With your help we succeed in garnering 787 votes, which equates to \$787 in gift cards that can be used for books and essential supplies.

Preuss Alumna Selected for Bank of America Student Leaders Program



Daisy Flores '13 in D.C.

After graduating from The Preuss School UCSD this past June, Daisy Flores '13 spent her summer in Washington, D.C., where she observed U.S. Senate hearings, participated in leadership workshops and interned with Com-

munity HousingWorks, a local nonprofit. The trip was part of the Bank of America Student Leaders Program, which recognizes high school juniors and seniors for their hard work and commitment to community service. Flores was one of 225 students selected from across the nation to participate in the eight-week program. Now at New York University, Flores is majoring in global public health with a concentration in chemistry.

Students Launch Cancer Research Careers at Sanford-Burnham

Ten students from Preuss completed a six-week summer research program in the Cancer Center of Sanford-Burnham Medical Research Institute. Supervised by institute faculty and trained by postdoctoral fellows and graduate students. the young investigators learned writing and communication skills as well as laboratory research methods. "This has been an amazing experience," said student Daniel Million. "Now along with being a doctor, I want to do scientific research on drugs to combat HIV and AIDS." The summer program was part of Sanford-Burnham's Continuing Umbrella for Research Experiences (CURE), a science-training program for high-achieving high school seniors from underrepresented communities who aspire to be cancer researchers.



Stay up-to-date! Connect with us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ ThePreussSchoolUCSD or send your email address to adittmar@ucsd.edu to receive important announcements and updates.

PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

This academic year marks a milestone at The Preuss School UCSD: It is the 15th year since we opened our doors on the



UC San Diego campus. While no one knew then that Preuss would become an award-winning national phenomenon. we all believed in the vision for the school:

the idea of equal access to a quality education. Fifteen years later, that belief is stronger than ever.

Since Preuss was founded, the lives of hundreds of students have been transformed. Equipped with the education

they received at Preuss, these talented students are forging bright futures for themselves, their families and their communities. Their success is a testament not only to their hard work and dedication, but to the educational model that Preuss provides.

One of the fundamental tenets of that model is expanded learning time, a concept Preuss has embraced from day one, and which is now gaining traction as an important part of the solution to our nation's educational challenges. But expanded learning time, while a vital component of our success, is not the only key element. A single-track, college preparatory curriculum and the creation of a strong college-bound culture with high expectations for students are also extremely important. These, and other research-based best practices, make a

tremendous difference to our students. What's more, these practices are making a difference to other students as well. The Preuss model is already finding its way into the instructional planning of schools and districts as close as City Heights and as far away as Nova Scotia.

We have accomplished much at Preuss, but there is more we can still do. I look forward to seeing what the next 15 years has in store.

Best Regards,

Scott Barton Principal

SPOTLIGHT Efrain Gonzalez '13 UC San Diego Student

Efrain Gonzalez's first passion was mathematics, but he discovered an interest in engineering when he became involved with The Preuss School UCSD's robotics club. Now, the Preuss graduate is beginning his undergraduate education at UC San Diego with plans to major in mechanical or aerospace engineering.

As a student at Preuss, Gonzalez got a head start in familiarizing himself with UC San Diego. He got to know the campus and its community while interning with the academic advising office at Eleanor Roosevelt College.

Yet, Gonzalez may not have been able to study at UC San Diego if it weren't for the Chancellor's Associates Scholarship Program, which is awarding Gonzalez \$10,000 per year for four years to attend the university. The new, multiyear pilot program was recently established by Chancellor Pradeep K. Khosla to make a worldclass UC San Diego education accessible for students at local high schools. The program is funded by Chancellor's Associates, a group of alumni, parents and friends who make an annual investment in the university of \$2,500 or more.

Gonzalez had the choice of attending Cal Poly San Luis Obispo or UC San Diego. "Both schools have great engineering programs, but at Cal Poly, I would have had to take out loans," said Gonzalez. "I come from a low-income family and we have financial struggles. The scholarship is a great benefit to me and my family, so attending UC San Diego made the most sense for me."



Efrain Gonzalez '13



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For more information about how you can make a difference, please visit preuss.ucsd .edu/giving or contact Stephanie Venti at (858) 822-4239 or sventi@ucsd.edu.

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FOCUS ON

Jack in the Box's Decade of Dedication

From ensuring that students have a ride to school to providing scholarships, volunteers and innovative learning experiences, Jack in the Box supports Preuss in countless ways. This fall marks the 10th year that The Jack in the Box Foundation has helped fund buses to get students to and from school. With 95 percent of students residing south of Interstate 8, providing reliable transportation is a critical component of success. "Thanks to generous donors like Jack in the Box, we're able to offer much needed

transportation for our students, many of whom would have no other way to get to school," said Principal Scott Barton.

Transportation is just the beginning of Jack in the Box's generosity. The company has also offered one-of-a-kind, hands-on learning experiences for Preuss students and created scholarships for Preuss graduates who attend UC San Diego. Many of their employees are Preuss volunteers as well. We are truly grateful for Jack in the Box's loyal support.



Preuss students visit Jack in the Box headquarters.