Thank you to all who are staying connected to Preuss and your classmates. Your stories are great—and they’re building the Preuss legacy!

If you’d like to be included in the next issue, tell us about your travel and new experiences, work and school, family and meeting up with former classmates. Send your stories and photographs to Maryann Lapthorn at mlapthorn@ucsd.edu.

WHAT’S UP WITH...

Julio Velazquez (2005)

Julio continues to keep himself busy and is looking forward to a great 2010. He currently works at the Metro Dance San Diego (www.metrodancesd.com) studio located in Linda Vista and still teaches at A Time To Dance Studio (www.atimetodance.com) in North Park and in La Jolla. During the summer, Julio worked at Reflections Central South through the Heartpower Program at SDSU and also worked with the North in San Marcos.

His performances included a recent tribute to Michael Jackson at the House of Blues San Diego in the David Ross Project, and also a performance during the Fourth of July celebration. He continues to be involved in music videos from local San Diego artists: Juice, Sno White Tha Product, and Cassanova. In October, he performed at the Emerge Dance Festival 2009 at the Jewish Community Center in La Jolla. That show was a big hit and received great reviews as the most entertaining dance piece ~ http://www.sdtheatrescene.com/columnists.php?coumnId=1. Julio still performs with Olio, a non-profit organization, that includes a vintage jazz group consisting of street dance and popular dance ranging from African, Tap, Lindy Hop to Hip Hop. (www.myspace.com/Oliosd).

In November, Julio volunteered his time with several SDSU students in an “Extreme Garage Makeover” for a SDSU alumna, Rita Roberson. Rita has cerebral palsy and uses an Equicizer machine to help with her physical therapy ~ http://www.thedailyaztec.com/city/alumna-gets-an-extreme-gift-1,2098282. And in August, Julio had the opportunity to go camping at Palomar Mountain with the Broadway Heights Community Council.

Julio recently auditioned and is now part of the Culture Shock Dance Troupe San Diego. He is excited about performing in 2010 and the travel opportunities and performances in Canada. In Spring 2010, Julio will perform at the Great Senior Dance Concert and soon after, will graduate from SDSU with a major in BFA Dance. Julio’s goal is to dance professionally.
**Jaleesa Chavez (2006)**
Since graduating from The Preuss School UCSD, Jaleesa Chavez has been attending the University of California Irvine. She is currently pursuing a major in Psychology and Social Behavior with a minor in African American studies. This past summer, Jaleesa had the opportunity to study abroad in Madrid, Spain. While abroad she experienced many amazing things. She attended the running of the bulls in Pamplona, visited the Guggenheim in Bilbao and took a weekend trip to Paris, France. It was an amazing opportunity and Jaleesa hopes to go back again someday. In January 2010, Jaleesa will begin an internship at the Early Education Childhood Center, where she will assist teachers with various activities and programs that facilitate learning and development. She is excited for this experience as she has been interested in a career that involves working with children and this internship will be a good introduction to that field. Jaleesa recently became a member of the Psychology Student Association and enjoys being involved with the club. The Psychology Student Association recently introduced the opportunity to become a "Big Buddy"/Mentor for the Comfort Zone Camp, which provides weekend camps for grieving children. Jaleesa will be attending this camp in January and is looking forward to the experience and giving back to the community. Lastly, Jaleesa will be graduating in June 2010 and will begin applying to graduate schools shortly thereafter.

**Alisia Covarrubias & Edgar Martinez (2006)**
Edgar Martinez is finishing his last year at UC Irvine, graduating in the Spring with a Bachelor’s degree in Criminology. He has also been working part-time. Edgar proposed to Alisia a few months after they graduated from Preuss. Daughter Daniela arrived in May 2008 and Edgar and Alisia were married in June 2009. They currently live in Irvine. Edgar plans on pursuing a career in law enforcement. Alisia attended UCSD until Daniela was born. She is currently working part-time, and enjoys being with her daughter and husband. Alisia also volunteers at various animal rescues in Orange County and occasionally provides a foster home for kittens.
**Alejandro Fuentes Mena (2009)**
Since attending Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington, Alejandro's life has progressively gotten faster. He is about to finish his first semester of freshman year in college. Alejandro is doing fairly well in most of his classes and is glad to be attending Whitman. His social life is great, the people he has met are awesome, the academic curriculum is rigorous, and the campus is beautiful. His only complaint is that he's not doing as great as he thought he would in Calculus class. His tip for incoming Freshmen: Take introductory courses upon coming to college — sometimes it's better to play it safe. Overall though, Alejandro's experience is wonderful and is glad he ended up at Whitman College. Incidentally, some people he has met call him “Dro,” because they can’t pronounce Alejandro. Dro visited San Diego from December 19 - January 16, 2010, hoping to say hi and bye to everyone!

**Kathleen Doan-Ha (2009)**
Since graduating Preuss, Kathleen has traveled to Asia with her family. She spent a few weeks in Vietnam, Thailand and Korea. Other than that, she’s been focusing on school (UCSD) and work.

**Rose Cao (2007)**
Rose is currently a junior at Harvard University and just finished her semester of teaching with CS50, an introductory class to computer science for undergrads that she enjoyed taking the year before. Her Teaching Fellow duties included: teaching a weekly section, holding office hours, and grading problem sets. She also led the midterm reviews as well as manned the course's bulletin board and help inbox. An enthusiastic student teacher, Rose peppered her section slides with nerdy references to Pokemon, xkcd, and lolcats in hopes of raising her students' interest and energy levels. Rose performs for Harvard's Cultural Rhythms, an accumulation of varied student performances headed by a celebrity host, as well as for Lunar New Year celebrations around the Boston area. Once a semester, she writes and illustrates a children's book with Harvard Stories for Orphans. She is concentrating in Biomedical Engineering, planning a secondary in Computer Science.

**Romyn Sabatchi (2009)**
Romyn is attending the University of San Diego and has joined the Pre-Med Fraternity, Phi Delta Epsilon. She recently returned to the Preuss School to talk to the students about college life.

**Luke King (2009)**
Luke (in green shirt) currently attends UC Riverside and is enjoying making new friends and new memories. Preuss alum, Joshua Villagomez (on the left) also attends UC Riverside.

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If you have any changes to your contact information, please let us know so that we can keep you updated on future Preuss School alumni newsletters and events. Contact Maryann Lapthorn (858) 534-1404 or mlapthorn@ucsd.edu. Thank you!
Thank you to all the alumni who returned to The Preuss School on January 5th! Special thanks to the following who made presentations about the transition into college life:

Diana Barajas ‘09  
Alyssa Carty ‘09  
Gloria Chukwueke ‘09  
Marcela Delgado ‘09  
Moises Esparza ‘07  
Nicole Freed ‘09  

Jazmin Gomez ‘09  
Jamie Hernandez ‘09  
Valentin Larragoitia ‘09  
Tania Martinez ‘09  
Romyn Sabatchi ‘09  
Stephanie Sandoval ‘07  

Catalina Santos ‘09  
Jake Sticka ‘09  
Alicia Thomas ‘09  
Danny Tran ‘09  
Renise Washington ‘09  

The Preuss School Tritons celebrated Homecoming in the UCSD campus gymnasium, with presentations from alumni, cheer activities, dance, and of course a great game!