



Chancellor's Associates donor Dr. Irma Gigli speaks with a Preuss student



## CHANGE-MAKER

### Preuss Named One of America's Top High Schools by The Daily Beast

The Preuss School UCSD has been named the top "change-making" school in *The Daily Beast's* "America's Top High Schools 2014" rankings this year. The school was recognized for its ability to prepare low-income and first-generation students for college and beyond. Preuss was also ranked among the top 100 in the College-Bound category.

In order to develop the list of change-making high schools, *The Daily Beast* took the overall ranking and multiplied it by the school's free and reduced lunch rates, a leading indicator of socioeconomic status. The overall ranking for each school is based on indicators culled from school surveys to compare public high schools in the U.S., with graduation and college acceptance rates weighed most heavily. Other criteria included: college-level courses and exams, percentage of students with free

or reduced lunch, as well as SAT and ACT scores – another mark of how well a school prepares students for college.

"It is a tremendous honor for Preuss to receive this recognition," said Scott Barton, principal of The Preuss School UCSD. "We believe that students should be challenged with rigorous coursework, but also provided with the support they need to succeed. Typically more than 90 percent of each graduating class is accepted to a four-year college or university."

This is the latest in a string of rankings for Preuss. Earlier this year, *U.S. News & World Report* named Preuss the best high school in San Diego County and the 5th best high school in California. In addition, *The Washington Post* named Preuss one of "America's Most Challenging High Schools," ranking it the 4th most challenging high school in California and 29th in the nation.

## Meet 'n Greet with Chancellor's Associates

The Preuss School UCSD had the opportunity to host Chancellor's Associates donors and guests recently as part of the group's regular series of colloquia. Considered the university's premier donor group, Chancellor's Associates' gifts have helped fund the Chancellor's Associates Scholars program, which has benefitted Preuss alumni who attend UC San Diego, as well as other students.

During the event, guests enjoyed breakfast and conversation with current Preuss seniors and heard from Principal Scott Barton. Preuss alumna and Chancellor's Associates Scholar Jacqueline Le also spoke, sharing what it meant for her and her family to receive the Chancellor's Associates scholarship, which enabled her to attend UC San Diego.



Students at Preuss come from more than 41 different zip codes in San Diego County but have one common goal – to go to college.

## BULLETIN BOARD

- Three lucky Preuss students received full scholarships to attend the U.S. Space & Rocket Center Space Camp in Huntsville, Ala., this summer thanks to the law firm **Fish & Richardson**. The students spent six days at Space Camp experiencing simulated space shuttle missions, participating in programs on space exploration and learning about mission control.
- Thank you to retailer **Anthropologie** for hosting an art supply drive; the Westfield UTC store selected Preuss to receive the items donated locally.
- With grant support from the **McCarthy Family Foundation**, three Preuss students were able to attend the Sally Ride Science Camp that was held at UC San Diego this summer. These unique camps provide girls with an opportunity to explore science technology and engineering while having fun on a college campus.

## ALUMNI UPDATES

### Marco Murillo '04

A member of Preuss' first graduating class, Murillo went on to get his degree in political science and history from UC San Diego before pursuing a Ph.D. in the Urban Schooling division at UCLA's Graduate School of Education and Information Studies. Now in the final year of his program, he says "It is my hope that as an emerging scholar I, too, can impact the lives of urban youth in the same manner Preuss impacted me."



Marco Murillo



Perla Rubi

### Perla Rubi '13

Currently in her second year at Bowdoin College, Rubi has been able to create a "wonderful" peer support network. A neuroscience major – who might possibly add a minor in education – Rubi is active in a variety of groups on campus and also plays on the varsity women's squash team. One of her biggest challenges? "Transitioning from sunny California to the cold weather in Maine," she says. "I'm happy to say that I've learned to love the snow."



## First Day of Class Welcome

When the school buses arrived at our campus on the first day of classes this year, they carried more than 848 new and returning students from more than 40 different zip codes. These students were greeted with smiling faces and warm welcomes by dozens of people including Preuss faculty, staff, board members, friends, donors and mentors as part of our annual First Day of Classes Welcome event. This year, in conjunction with the First Day Welcome, we also hosted the 10-year reunion of the Class of 2004. Marco Murillo and Jesse Lopez were two members of that first graduating class who returned to speak and helped greet Preuss students.

## Make a Pledge for Preuss With Birdies for Charity

Preuss is partnering with Farmers Insurance and the Century Club of San Diego to raise funds through the third annual Birdies for Charity event, part of the 2014 Farmers Insurance Open. To participate, make a flat donation or pledge donations to Preuss for every birdie made by the professional golfers during the competitive rounds of the Farmers Insurance Open, Feb. 5–8, 2015. This year, we're also challenging Preuss alumni to participate by donating \$5 each. The Preuss Board of Directors, Founders' Circle members, mentors, tutors and community members are rising to the challenge to match alumni participation.

Learn more and make your pledge at <http://www.farmersinsuranceopen.com/giving-back/charities/birdies-for-charity>.



**Stay up-to-date!** Connect with us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/ThePreussSchoolUCSD](http://www.facebook.com/ThePreussSchoolUCSD) or send your email address to [kbluhm@ucsd.edu](mailto:kbluhm@ucsd.edu) to receive important announcements and updates.

## PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE



It is incredible to think that the Class of 2004 celebrated their 10-year reunion this past summer. As a member of the founding faculty, I

recall vividly those early years at The Preuss School – the undercurrent of excitement that came with taking part in an educational experiment, the anxiety that resulted from trying something completely

new. Some members of that first graduating class have said they felt like guinea pigs. A school like Preuss had not existed before and we were all learning, adapting and evolving as we went along. But those first students and their parents, like everyone else involved, believed in the vision for the school. And that belief encouraged us all.

In the decade since that first graduating class, many of our students have built upon the educational foundation provided by Preuss. They have gone on to bright futures, transforming their lives as well as the world around them. They are working to end homelessness, educating the next generation, improving healthcare, assisting troubled youth, shaping business strategy and so much more.

It is extremely rewarding to see our students achieving so much for themselves, their families and their communities. They have worked long and hard to realize their goals, as have the many talented faculty, staff, parents, volunteers and friends who helped support them. It is this unwavering commitment to excellence and steadfast support that helps set Preuss apart and makes the school a beacon of opportunity.

Thank you for continuing to help our students shine.

Best regards,

Scott Barton  
Principal

## SPOTLIGHT

### Amanda Esquivel '05 *Social Worker*

Every teenager – and every family – has ups and downs. Amanda Esquivel, who graduated from The Preuss School UCSD in 2005, remembers moments in her own high school experience when she wished there was someone she could turn to for extra support. Now Esquivel is that person. As a social worker at Preuss, Esquivel focuses on ensuring that students, and their families, have what they need to be successful in school.

“It’s a blessing to me,” said Esquivel, who is the first Preuss alum to work at the school in a professional capacity. “My goal since college has been to help youth, and to be doing that at Preuss for students who are in the same position I was, is wonderful.”

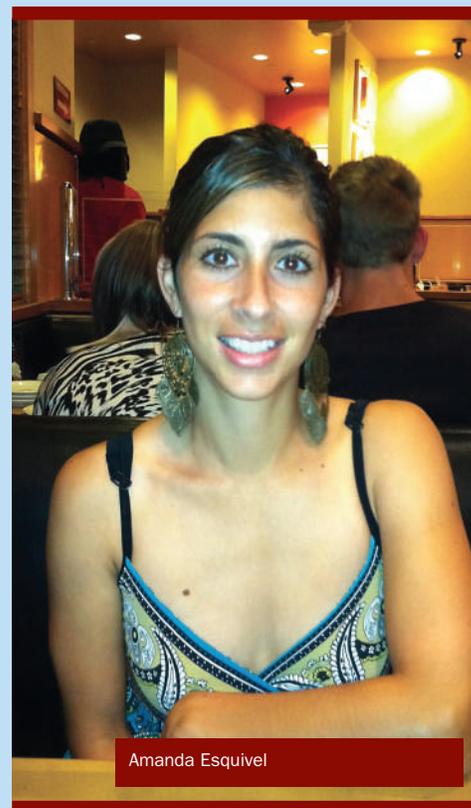
After graduating from The Preuss School, Esquivel attended UC San Diego where she majored in psychology. She received her master’s degree in marriage and family therapy from the University of San Diego and worked as a counselor with

Breaking Cycles, a county program that focuses on preventing escalating juvenile delinquency among at-risk youth.

Esquivel’s current position at Preuss was created with philanthropic gifts from the Grillo-Marxuach family. As the school’s first social worker, Esquivel helps to support students, parents and families who are facing economic and social challenges at home – so that students can stay focused at school.

“Students need to be informed and prepared to handle the many social and economic issues in their daily lives, as well as others they will face as they transition from high school to college,” said Antonio Grillo-Lopez. “The availability of a social worker is of the utmost importance to help them in dealing effectively with those issues.”

It’s one more feature that sets The Preuss School UCSD apart.



Amanda Esquivel

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## FOCUS ON **The Class of 2004**

Jesse Lopez remembers how it felt to be a member of The Preuss School's first graduating class. "There was this huge sense of accomplishment," he said. "We had this feeling that we weren't just changing our own lives but transforming education in San Diego and around our nation."

Fast forward 10 years and the MIT graduate is now senior manager of Latin America Strategy at Mondelez International, the global leader in the biscuits, chocolate, powdered beverages and candy categories. He recently returned to Preuss to celebrate

his 10-year reunion along with fellow alum Marco Murillo. Although other members of the class weren't able to attend, many of them have been busy pursuing degrees and their own careers as well. Of that first graduating class of 56, nearly all went on to some form of higher education with 36 pursuing degrees at a four-year college or university. Twenty-two members of the class graduated with a bachelor's degree and are now pursuing careers in various fields including law, counseling, business, education, design and health.



Jesse Lopez (left) with Jan Gabay, Preuss English Department Chair, and Marco Murillo