Preuss Students Explore Corporate America Thanks to Key Donor

For Jerome Shaw, co-founder and executive vice president of Volt Information Sciences, Inc., education was the key to his success.

“The ability to complete my education using GI Bill benefits was one of the greatest opportunities I ever received,” said Shaw. “An education gave me the foundation and confidence to start Volt with only $13 with my brother in 1950. Without having an education, I believe that neither I nor Volt would have experienced the growth and success of today.”

Shaw has shared his success story with students at The Preuss School before, but recently he took his involvement with Preuss one step further and invited the entire junior class to a daylong immersion event at Volt’s West Region Corporate Headquarters in Orange, Calif. Transportation to Volt was generously provided by UCSD Alumni and Shaw.

Students toured the 200,000-square-foot facility and heard from the leaders of Volt, a global provider of talent, technology and consulting solutions throughout North and South America, Europe and Asia Pacific. The field trip gave students insight into corporate America and demonstrated what is possible when they achieve their educational goals.

“By experiencing Volt’s day-to-day activities—from our computer center to our corporate departments, including procurement, accounting, contracts, legal and human resources—students had the opportunity to see firsthand the connection between completing their education and possible career opportunities and the chance for a better life,” said Shaw.

“My message to students is that every class and every activity is important for your future, including homework,” Shaw continued. “I encourage them to take advantage of every opportunity because each positive step you take will contribute to a brighter, stronger tomorrow for yourself as well as our nation.”
Hawk Named Coach of the Year

Congratulations to Lisa Hawk, chair of the Exercise and Health Science Department and Preuss’ athletic director! Hawk was recognized as a 2011 Coach of the Year by the national youth sports organization Up2Us, and the Congressional Caucus on Youth Sports and Childhood Obesity Task Force. The award is given to deserving youth coaches who have inspired children on and off the field and played meaningful roles in the lives of the young athletes they serve. Hawk was one of four coaches from across the country honored at the recent Up2Us Coach of the Year ceremony and reception in Washington, D.C.

Principal Scott Barton was invited to speak at the recent National Convening on Expanding Learning Time in Boston, Mass. The meeting was presented by Harvard Graduate School of Education and the National Center on Time and Learning, which is dedicated to expanding learning time to improve student achievement and enable a well-rounded education.

Preuss has been named a Breakthrough School by the MetLife Foundation–National Association of Secondary School Principals. Preuss will receive a $5,000 grant and will be featured in the association’s monthly magazine, Principal Leadership. Thanks to teacher Anne Artz who nominated Preuss for this award!

Just a few months to go before the return of Preuss’ annual benefit celebration! The festivities will take place on Saturday, April 21, 2012, at the Hyatt Regency La Jolla, beginning at 6:30 p.m. The evening promises to be full of good fun—and all for a good cause! For more information, call Maryann Lapthorn at (858) 534-1404.

Stay Connected! If you would like to receive email communications, including important announcements, videos and more from The Preuss School, please send your email address to mlapthorn@ucsd.edu.
In Natasha Ippolito’s class, students learn by reading, writing and—of course—acting. From Shakespeare and Arthur Miller to Neil Simon, Ippolito’s drama students bring to life the literature they study through scene work and monologues.

“It’s an amazing experience to see these classics through the students’ eyes,” says Ippolito, “and to see them bring the literature to life.”

Ippolito, who teaches AP Literature/Composition and Drama, is entering her 20th year of teaching and her 11th year at The Preuss School UCSD. Looking back, Ippolito remembers when she first found out about Preuss. Her father, who was teaching at UC San Diego, sent her a flurry of excited emails about the university’s plan to open the charter school.

“There was so much excitement about starting this new school,” says Ippolito. “I wanted to be a part of it, and a part of the mission of the school.”

For Ippolito, part of the magic of The Preuss School is that its grade-level structure and small size allows teachers to get to know students very well. “It’s a powerful structure. You start working with students in sixth grade, when they are really just beginning to become students, and you see them through to 12th grade, when they are preparing to leave for college. It’s amazing to see their development,” she says.

In her drama class, students creatively explore the curriculum while building important interpersonal and communication skills, foundational skills that will prepare them for careers in any field. “At Preuss we embraced the art component of the high-school experience,” says Ippolito. “We know, and the students know, that the arts are important for academic success.”
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Preuss and UC San Diego Athletics

From donations of time to donations of equipment, UC San Diego’s athletics and recreation departments have been generous to The Preuss School UCSD. Over the last few years, the university has donated running shoes, athletic uniforms and fitness equipment to Preuss, and UC San Diego student athletes have volunteered their time with coaching or running clinics.

“We are very fortunate to have benefited from UC San Diego’s generosity,” said Eric Brazelton, physical-education teacher at Preuss. “Their involvement has truly made a difference in what our students can accomplish on and off the playing field.”