Trolley Groundbreaking Celebrated on Manchester Field

The Preuss School was the site for the Mid-Coast Trolley Groundbreaking and community celebration this fall, which was attended by several thousand people. An 11-mile addition to the San Diego Trolley system, the Mid-Coast project will extend the Blue Line from Old Town to UC San Diego and beyond. There will be nine new trolley stations built as part of the project, including two UC San Diego stops. One will be at Voigt Drive, directly across from The Preuss School.

Among the various speakers at the celebration was Preuss senior class president Franklin Hang, who shared how the trolley will benefit Preuss students in the future.

Chancellor’s Medals Honor Preuss Supporters

Peter Farrell and Richard and Carol Dean Hertzberg recently were awarded the prestigious Chancellor’s Medal, one of the highest honors given by UC San Diego to recognize exceptional service in support of the campus’ mission. The Chancellor’s Medal, along with the Revelle Medal, was presented during UC San Diego’s Founders Celebration — an annual celebration of the university’s founding and those who have helped make the campus one of the world’s leading research universities.

“Founders Celebration is a special event that allows UC San Diego to thank and honor the remarkable, boundary-breaking visionaries and leaders who have helped make the campus the innovative powerhouse it is today,” said Chancellor Pradeep K. Khosla. “This year’s award recipients have played integral roles in sparking meaningful research and discoveries.”

Peter Farrell

Through the company he founded, ResMed, Farrell revolutionized the way sleep-related breathing disorders are treated. With his time and philanthropy, he has proved an invaluable partner to UC San Diego, establishing a legacy of invention, improvement and progress. Farrell has been a longtime donor to The Preuss School through the Farrell Family Foundation and the ResMed Foundation, steadfastly supporting longer learning time; the Math, Science and Engineering Initiative; transportation; and more. Most recently, gifts have supported the Preuss Robotics team as well as new equipment and materials for courses and labs.

The Hertzbergs were honored for their generosity and philanthropic vision with nearly two decades of support to UC San Diego in a variety of areas. Richard Hertzberg was also one of the initial investors in Preuss.

“Our donors have had a profound impact on Preuss, as well as many other areas of UC San Diego,” said Preuss Principal Scott Barton. “It is a pleasure to see them get the recognition they deserve.”
Preuss Teacher Named a Latino Champion

Like the students she works with, Preuss college adviser Jessica Resendez-Orozco was the first person in her family to go to college.

“I see myself in my students, and they inspire me every day because I look back and think about my own upbringing, where I come from, the obstacles that I faced growing up,” she told the San Diego Union-Tribune, which named her one of its 2016 Latino Champions.

The annual awards recognize individuals, businesses and volunteers in San Diego County and the border region who have taken an active role in the community and made an impact on the cultural life.

Resendez interned at Preuss while attending UC San Diego and has worked at the school since receiving her undergraduate degree in 2007. Since then, she has given a lot of her free time to students and their families, helping them apply to college and for scholarships. Preuss Principal Scott Barton said he knew Resendez was special when she began interning.

“I could see the potential in her,” he told the Union-Tribune. “I see her being a principal or running a nonprofit organization of her own someday — hopefully a school similar to the kinds of things we’re doing.”

Thanks to a donation from Ron Campnell and guidance from Helen Kagan, more than 40 Preuss art students were able to visit Torrey Pines State Reserve for a plein air painting experience. Students painted the scenery and also had an opportunity to go for a guided hike and learn about the ecology of the park.

Kudos to the Preuss eighth-graders who organized a one-day beach cleanup. More than 30 Preuss students turned out to help pick up trash, prompting one of the local lifeguards to come over and thank the students.

Save the Date for the next Preuss School benefit celebration, taking place Friday, April 28, 2017 at the Estancia La Jolla Hotel and Spa.

Alumni Updates

Jonathan Wosen '09

After graduating from Williams College with a degree in biology, Wosen began a Ph.D. program in immunology at Stanford University, planning to pursue a career in biomedical research. Now in his fourth year of graduate school, Wosen finds himself making plans to pursue a career in science communication instead. “Part of the reason I first got interested in biomedical research was because of the public benefits of studying health and disease,” he wrote in the Naturejobs blog on his decision to change career paths. “I realized that empowering people with an understanding of major scientific discoveries was another form of service.”

Hong Van Pham '09

A graduate of Stanford University, Pham most recently served as a domestic and economic policy adviser on the Clinton-Kaine presidential transition project and, before that, on Hillary Clinton’s 2016 presidential campaign. She is currently finishing her master’s in public affairs at Princeton University’s Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs.

Stay up-to-date! Connect with us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ThePreussSchoolUCSD or send your email address to kyoung@ucsd.edu to receive important announcements and updates.
I am inspired every day by what I see here at The Preuss School. From the hard work and drive of our students to the tireless dedication of our staff, families and friends, it is all of us working together that makes it possible to fulfill the Preuss promise of a college education.

But Preuss does more than provide low-income, first-generation students with a pathway to college. It provides them with a pathway to a brighter future, a future in which they have the power to transform their own lives, as well as the world around them.

Need proof? Just look at some of our alumni. In this issue of Preussline alone, we hear from Jerome J. Sanders, who is helping others navigate the changing digital landscape; Hong Van Pham, who has been working on policies that strengthen families; and Jonathan Wosen, who is discovering that a change in careers doesn’t change his goal of serving the public.

There are so many other Preuss graduates like these three — alumni who are making an impact, whether it’s through revolutionizing video technology, studying medicine to become a voice for Latino health, providing legal services to the needy or teaching their students valuable lessons that extend beyond the classroom.

It is these stories and more that inspire me, and I hope they inspire you. Thank you for everything you do for Preuss and our students.

Have a wonderful holiday season and a healthy, happy new year.

Best regards,

Scott Barton
Principal

Several years from now, said Jerome J. Sanders, the internet will go from connecting 15 billion things to 50 billion. Cars, kitchen appliances and even heart monitors are coming online, connected through the “Internet of Things.” He helps companies navigate this digital transformation as a services marketing specialist at Cisco.

“As the world becomes increasingly digital, it will require all of us to become more technologically savvy,” he said. “My role at Cisco requires me to understand our customers’ biggest challenges and help them to find solutions to achieve their business goals.”

Jerome graduated from The Preuss School in 2010 and became the first in his family to attend a four-year university. He majored in marketing at Santa Clara University and got involved with a number of student opportunities. He also spent a semester abroad in Spain, where he took international business classes and worked as a social media marketing intern at Apartment Barcelona. The experience led to an internship—and then career—with Cisco.

All of these opportunities, he said, were made possible by the rigorous training and outstanding level of support he received at Preuss.

“Preuss established the foundation I needed to perform both inside and outside of the classroom,” he said. “I give tremendous credit to the staff, teachers and Preuss families for sharing everything they had to make the road to college seem that much closer, and a special thank you to my advisory teacher, Lisa Hawk.”

Now he is paying it forward by mentoring the next generation, particularly in STEM fields. He tells students, “Be your biggest champion and know that you are capable of achieving all your dreams.”
Thanks to a generous private donation, The Preuss School has kicked off a new funding opportunity for teachers and staff this year. The Internal Grant Process, a semiannual program, was created to help spur innovation and better understand some basic needs classes might have. Twenty-five grant applications were submitted for the fall 2016 cycle, which were then reviewed and scored by The Preuss School administrative team. Eight grants were awarded for projects, including the purchase of a ceramics kiln and additional equipment for the after-school band, securing athletic trainers for several Preuss home games, designing an underwater remote-operated vehicle for the Marine Science class and more.

“I am thrilled to offer this opportunity for a ceramics program to our students,” said Tamima Noorzay, chair of the Fine Arts department. “There are also so many extensions from earth science to chemistry and even physics that apply to the process, I know it will be a rich experience for our students.”