



Anne Artz with Vietnamese children during her travels

Anne Artz Receives Fulbright Award

Science teacher Anne Artz spent her summer vacation teaching in Vietnam, thanks to a Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching Short-Term grant. Artz is one of only nine U.S. citizens selected to participate in the prestigious program offered by the U.S. Department of State and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board.

During her six weeks in Vietnam, Artz worked at Lao Cai Teacher Training College, the only college in the mountainous Lao Cai province responsible for training and retraining teachers. Artz worked with current teachers and teachers-in-training to build their capacity to teach science, mathematics and information technology in English.

SUMMER SCIENCE

Students Spend Summer Break Exploring Life as a Scientist

"I got a chance to dissect a fly, which I didn't think I could do," said Yadira Gomez Rangel, a junior at The Preuss School UCSD. She was one of seven students who completed a two-week internship this summer at Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute (SBP).

The program offers an opportunity for the next generation of scientists to interact one-on-one with medical researchers and gain hands-on research experience in a laboratory. Students rotated among four different labs, presented posters in English and Spanish, and received a certificate and a stipend for their hard work.

Not only is the program a chance to explore laboratory life—a first for many high school students—it is also meant to inspire students to consider pursuing a career in science. Many of the juniors who take part in the two-week program choose to join an extended six-week internship, a similar series hosted by SBP for seniors. Students get to work

full-time alongside scientists and conduct experiments using the same techniques as graduate students.

"About 90 percent of what I learned in the lab I wouldn't have been taught in the classroom," said Avitia Mejica, who participated in both programs.

This year students examined the correlation between obesity and heart disease in fruit flies; studied zebra fish and tackled the challenge of curing diabetes; discovered how to use *Caenorhabditis elegans* worms to understand the aging process; and learned about RNA modification, a process that occurs in all living organisms and can influence how diseases occur.

The program is made possible with support from Peggy and Peter Preuss and Debby and Wain Fishburn.

Preuss School students at the Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute



BULLETIN BOARD

- **Save the date** for the next Preuss School benefit celebration on Friday, April 20, 2018, at the Estancia La Jolla Hotel and Spa.
- The Preuss School hosted the annual **FIRST LEGO League Qualifying Tournament** on campus on Nov. 11. Students on The Preuss School's FIRST Team #812, dubbed the Midnight Mechanics, planned the tournament with the help of Preuss teacher advisers.
- AP U.S. History teacher **Chellyn Boquiren** was one of 12 educators nationwide to travel to the Aspen Ideas Festival in Colorado as a Bezos Scholar. She participated in the program with Preuss student Eric Tran.

ALUMNI UPDATES

Samantha Champi '13

Samantha Champi graduated from UC San Diego in 2017 with a degree in human development. She was also a Chancellor's Associates Scholarship recipient. Upon graduation, Champi decided to take a gap year and participated in a leadership program called the Neighborhoods Rising Institute with Alliance San Diego. She has also worked as a canvasser for Alliance San Diego. Following her work with local programs focused on civic engagement and social justice, she is applying to master's programs to study counseling and student affairs in higher education.



Samantha Champi

Darlene Lopez '08

A graduate of UC San Diego, Darlene Lopez is now pursuing her master's degree in strategic public relations at the USC Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism. While pursuing her degree, she has worked in public relations for organizations including the Los Angeles Rams, NBCUniversal and the Milken Institute. She is currently working at the El Rey Network in Los Angeles.



Darlene Lopez

A Gift for Writing

Wielding pen and paper—or keyboard and computer—they imagine characters and plots, scenes and settings. Students at The Preuss School UCSD hone their writing skills through the Playwrights Project, an eight-week program designed to develop language and creativity. At the culmination, their one-act plays come to life when professional actors visit Preuss to perform their scripts.

To help sustain reading and writing enrichment programs, local philanthropist Stephanie Sides has established a \$50,000 endowment that will provide funding in perpetuity. An additional gift of \$2,000 will support this year's Playwrights Project. "Perhaps some of the students will enjoy the experience enough to become writers or actors," said Sides.

Sides has many connections with Preuss. She has served as a mentor as well as a panelist for senior exhibitions and attends the annual Preuss School benefit, The Preuss Promise, each spring.



Stephanie Sides

"The Preuss School is one of the most remarkable educational programs I know in terms of the motivated, articulate and poised students it consistently turns out,"

said Sides.

Currently a freelance writer, Sides has been affiliated with the San Diego Supercomputer Center and Qualcomm Institute at UC San Diego and continues to partner with university faculty in science and engineering on grant proposals, project reports and more.

"I've spent my career doing scientific and technical writing, and hope these students will experience the same kind of delight in language and writing that I've had."



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PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE



Our students are exceptional. Many travel to The Preuss School from far distances by bus and attend a longer school day and year, which total nearly an extra academic year by the time

they graduate. And this fall, 100 percent of Preuss seniors went on to some form of higher education.

Getting that college acceptance letter is exhilarating, especially for students who will be the first in their family to attend a university. Yet many would not be able to achieve their dream without scholarship support.

That's why we are grateful for the Chancellor's Associates Scholarship Program at UC San Diego. In 2013, The Preuss School was among three local high schools chosen to be a part of the program, which provides eligible students with what is essentially a full scholarship to attend UC San Diego.

Eighteen students from Preuss were part of the inaugural cohort that received the scholarship when it was first established. Over the summer, those students became the first to attend UC San Diego as Chancellor's Associates Scholars all four years of their education—from freshman to senior year—and graduate. We are so proud of their accomplishments.

To date, the program has benefited more than 120 Preuss students who have been able to gain an outstanding education at a globally ranked university in their hometown. They are growing into the next generation of changemakers right here, making a difference in their community and beyond. We can't wait to see the positive impact they make as leaders and innovators of the future.

As 2017 comes to a close, I send my warmest wishes for the holiday season and look forward to the New Year.

Best regards,

Scott Barton
Principal

SPOTLIGHT *Jawid Habib '06, Attorney and Preuss Board Member*

After his father survived three assassination attempts in Russian-occupied Afghanistan, Jawid Habib's parents were forced to flee from their home in 1980. The family resettled in San Diego, where Habib was born.

Habib, who graduated from The Preuss School in 2006 and went on to attend UC San Diego and UCLA, is now an attorney with the world's largest labor and employment law firm, Littler Mendelson. "I

got to do what I wanted to do and for the firm that I wanted to work for," said Habib.

Before joining his current law firm, Habib clerked for the Hon. Louis Garcia, an administrative judge with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, prompting Habib's interest in employment law. He then received a prestigious clerkship with the Hon. Larry Alan Burns, who serves on the U.S. District court of the Southern District of California.

Habib credits The Preuss School with helping him get to where he is today. He recalls the small class sizes, supportive advisory classes and even a Socratic seminar that offered a preview of his law school studies. But it was some of the connections—with teachers and mentors—that still resonate the strongest with Habib.

"The Preuss School opened up a lot of doors that never would have existed for me otherwise," said Habib, who still keeps in touch with mentors from Preuss and is now a member of The Preuss School board of directors. "I was able to ask questions and build relationships with people who are community leaders and pioneers in their fields. As someone from a family with little resources or connections, I would not have otherwise had access to such amazing mentors without The Preuss School."



(Left to right) Matthew Weil, Kristina Hess, Chancellor Pradeep K. Khosla, Jawid Habib and Peter Preuss

GIVING BACK

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

FOCUS ON Future Leaders Debate at Model UN Conference



Preuss students at the Model UN conference in October

They become impassioned delegates, delivering speeches and drafting resolutions regarding our world's toughest issues. Each year, Preuss students in the Model United Nations club conduct research, write proposals and give presentations at local conferences, simulating the work of the U.N. General Assembly. Students learn about current and historical events—from the Syrian refugee crisis to the American Revolution—and build leadership skills.

In October, 10 Preuss students attended the Model UN conference

at El Camino High School. Senior Jonathan Ventura won Best Delegate in his committee, demonstrating diplomacy and exceptional skill in building consensus among delegates. In addition, junior Arturo Torres was awarded a commendation, and junior Joyce Lynh Chan was recognized for her research on combating ISIS and Islamic radicalization.

Next on the agenda? Students will take part in the North County Regional Conference in December, and have their sights set on the Laguna Beach Invitational next March.