



Preuss Alumni

Issue 3

June 2009

The Preuss School is celebrating 10 years of academic achievement! We are extremely proud of all of you who attended Preuss, have gone on to college and are pursuing your goals.

Thank you to all who have submitted your updates! If you would like to be included in the next issue, please send your stories and photographs to Maryann Laphorn at mlaphorn@ucsd.edu.

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PREUSS ALUMNI NEWS:



Isela Medina (2005)

After her graduation in 2005, Isela enrolled at UC San Diego. While at UCSD, she worked for three years as the Outreach Coordinator at Thurgood Marshall College. Isela recruited UCSD students to tutor and intern at The Preuss School, and at UCSD's new partners: Gompers Charter Middle School and Lincoln High School. The job has given Isela many venues to explore, learn, and grow. She is also working as an intern in the Family Services Center at Gompers, where she works with students who have social and emotional needs. She is also working with the Gear-Up counselors at Lincoln High School. Her current research through UCSD's CREATE department focuses on what factors play in to students

NOT going to college after high school. In the summer, Isela will be working with SummerBridge San Diego, a program that targets inner city youth and challenges them to learn and succeed academically. Isela will be participating in the UCSD graduation ceremony in June with a degree in Sociology, however, her last quarter will be spent studying abroad in Rome, Italy. Upon her return in December, she plans to work and eventually apply to graduate school to go into Marriage and Family Therapy, specifically private practice. Surprisingly, Isela is still playing soccer after the four years of soccer/volleyball at Preuss.

Nancy Le (2005)

Nancy is currently a 4th year student at UC Riverside and is scheduled to graduate June 2009. Following her graduation, Nancy will make a quick move to New York City for a further degree in Health Management. She is currently working as a data analyst at the UC Riverside Graduate School of Education.



Peter Tran (2005)

Peter recently graduated from UC Berkeley. He received a degree in Cognitive Science and will be working full time for the Mann Consulting firm in San Francisco as an Account Manager/IT Consultant.



Bernice Ramirez (2005)

Bernice graduated from the University of Virginia with an interdisciplinary degree in Political and Social Thought. As part of her major, she wrote an honors thesis on the Obama administration and the prospects for immigration reform. During her last year at UVA, she had the privilege of living on the Lawn—an honor 47 seniors receive in recognition of academic achievement and service to the university. She was also co-chair of the Minority Rights Coalition, the umbrella organization for the major identity-based student organizations on campus. Next year, Bernice will be an Americorps VISTA member with an after-school program in Washington, DC.



Alfred Reserva (2005)

Alfred is currently attending UC Irvine and working towards a degree in Mechanical Engineering with a possible minor in Material Science. He is a member of the Sigma Chi Fraternity which has provided him with a lot of networking, being part of the school, developing more school spirit, getting involved and meeting a lot of friends. Alfred played Lacrosse during his freshman year. He is planning on graduating in June 2010. Last year, Alfred did an internship running a house-painting business that began from scratch and made \$40k over the course of a few months. For Alfred, it was an interesting opportunity and definitely time consuming, but it was a great learning experience for him. He is now currently working at Macy's part-time and focusing on school.



Julio Velazquez (2005)

Julio recently received the President's Volunteer Service Award. This award celebrates the spirit of giving back to the community through commitment to service. It recognizes citizens who have given fifty to one hundred hours or more of their free time to their communities. Julio continues to be a very busy individual performing at various dance productions, clubs, and schools. He will be taking summer classes at City College and working at Reflections Central for six weeks. Reflections Central is an agency where troubled teenagers are in various stages of recovery. He will perform and teach the students dance moves and also put a show together for the students and their parents.



Christina M. Nguyen (2006)

Christina took a year off her studies from Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering to start up a company called Alight Learning with five of her Olin colleagues. The company currently employs 11 people. Alight Learning is a website that will engage middle school students in their learning through personalized learning, real-time assessments that emphasize the learning process over results, and collaboration with peers, teachers, and parents. The goal is to release a private beta with a few teachers in the fall, and then a public beta the following year. She is planning on going back to school in the fall to graduate with an Engineering degree with a concentration in Computing in 2011.

WE'RE NOW ON FACEBOOK. SEARCH FOR THE PREUSS SCHOOL ALUMNI GROUP

Isabel Plata—Gomez (2006)

Isabel is a happily married Navy wife and she and her husband recently purchased their first home in San Diego. Her husband recently re-enlisted to serve his country another four years. Isabel and her husband enjoy traveling and have been to all over California, Florida, Arizona, Ohio, Michigan, and Canada. They are looking forward to traveling abroad and hopefully take in a couple of cruises. Isabel is hoping to continue in her nursing career.



Eric Renteria (2006)

Eric is currently in his third year at UCSD as a computer science major. He has also been working for the UCSD Division of Biology in their Computing Services department as a system administrator and tech support person for two and a half years. He recently got a new job developing web applications for Biology personnel using SQL database technology, AJAX scripting techniques, and JSP servlets. On the extra curricular side of Eric's life, he is working on a Multi-touch surface computer project (similar to the one Microsoft has) as part of the Computer Science and Engineering Society. He and his colleagues have already built a second version of the prototype design using an LCD monitor with a camera directly underneath it that picks up infrared signals shot across the screen as they bounce off any touches on the LCD screen itself. They are currently working on an application programming interface (API) to allow others to develop applications for the Multi-touch computer. Lastly, Eric recently became the co-webmaster for the UCSD chapter of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE).



Kane Diep (2007)

Kane was recently promoted to Production Manager at The Loft at UC San Diego, a modern performance lounge and social crossroads where art and pop culture collide. Kane develops a series of shows called Luminance showcasing popular Asian American musicians, featuring artists such as Jennifer Chung, Olivia Thai, Seriously the Band, and Sam Kang. Kane has also been able to work with and meet prominent Asian-Americans in the AA community such as WongFu Productions and Traphik. Kane produces the Eclipse Club Parties at UCSD and has had five this year including the Sun God Pre-party. He is directing a hip-hop dance team called VN8 (Vice

Number 8), who have performed at UCSD's Sun God Festival, multiple Eclipses, VSA's Culture Show, and the Southeast Asian Collective's benefit concert. <http://twitter.com/kaned89>



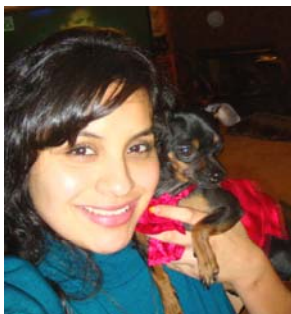
Sara Elizabeth Salas (2007)

Sara just finished her second year as an undergraduate at UC Berkeley and is pursuing a double major in Political Science and Ethnic Studies; her goal is to attend law school. She works at Jumpstart for Young Children, a non-profit organization under the AmeriCorps umbrella and has now completed over 650 hours of service. Once a week, she participates as a mentor for elementary school children in the Berkeley School District. Sara is a devoted sister of Sigma Pi Alpha Sorority, Inc. and is on the Executive Board for the Multi-Cultural Greek Council. Additionally, she is an active member for the Hispanic Scholarship Fund Scholar chapter at Cal and regularly participates in coordinating events with the Raza Retention

and Recruitment Center. Next year, she hopes to study abroad in Brazil and will be working as an Administrative Assistant for a major law firm in downtown Oakland.

Antoinette Brou (2008)

Antoinette is about to finish her first year at UCLA under the International Development Studies major. Currently, she is a social chair for her dorm floor and assistant social chair of her sorority (Kappa Delta) where her main focus is to plan and schedule social events. She was also President of her Pledge class for Kappa Delta. Antoinette also finished her first season of college lacrosse. The UCLA team made it to the nationals in Scottsdale, Arizona and finished 11th out of the 16 teams there (180 teams overall). Lastly, Antoinette is involved in Bruins United, one of the two student political parties on campus, and hopes to become thoroughly involved in the work they do.



Ximena Plata (2008)

Ximena attends the University of San Diego with a major in marine biology. She lives on campus and loves attending USD. She is involved with her school and is studying hard to get good grades. Ximena has traveled to Hawaii, San Francisco, Napa Valley, Arizona, and the Grand Canyon.

Preuss School 10th Anniversary Benefit



Jesse Lopez with Peter Preuss

The Preuss School 10th Anniversary Benefit was held on April 17, 2009 at the new Scripps Seaside Forum near La Jolla Shores. The guest speaker that evening was Preuss alum, Jesse Lopez (2004).

Also in attendance was Isela Medina (2005).



L to R: Peter Preuss, Isela Medina, Cecil Lytle

If you have any changes to your contact information, please let me 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!