

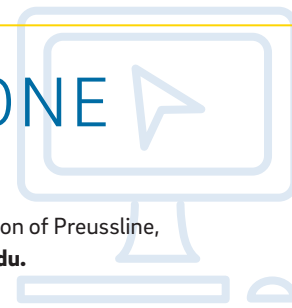


## GIVING BACK

For more information about how you can make a difference for The Preuss School and its students, please visit [preuss.ucsd.edu/giving](https://preuss.ucsd.edu/giving) or contact Tamika Franklin at (858) 246-0327 or [twfranklin@ucsd.edu](mailto:twfranklin@ucsd.edu).

## WE'VE GONE DIGITAL!

To sign up for the electronic version of Preussline, please email [c2morales@ucsd.edu](mailto:c2morales@ucsd.edu).



### FOCUS ON



The Preuss School's new Fabrication Laboratory (FabLab) was launched this fall

### NEW ROBOTICS LABORATORY IGNITES STUDENT CREATIVITY

It's a place where imagination can run wild. This fall, a soft launch of The Preuss School's new Fabrication Laboratory (FabLab) was held. Modeled after a space at MIT, students will now have access to specialized equipment that they can use to build robots and develop prototypes of their big ideas.

Nearly 40 percent of students at The Preuss School have an interest in pursuing science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics

(STEAM) fields in college and as a career. The FabLab will serve 50 students this year and will be used by more than 100 when completed in the spring, including the school's competitive robotics team, the Midnight Mechanics.

The goal is to spark creativity and entrepreneurship among students and expose them to sustainable career options now and in the future. The establishment of the laboratory was made possible by funding received through a voter-approved capital bond project, and philanthropic support from the community. We look forward to welcoming you to a formal opening in spring 2020.

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### THE PREUSS SCHOOL IN THE RANKINGS

- ★ **FIRST IN SAN DIEGO**  
Top high school in the county, third consecutive year (U.S. News & World Report)
- ★ **TOP 10**  
Ranked seventh best high school in California (U.S. News & World Report)
- ★ **EXCEEDS 95 PERCENT**  
College acceptance rate and nearly 100 percent graduation rate
- ★ **888**  
Academic Performance Index (API) score—one of the highest in San Diego County

### DR. MARY DALY TO SENIORS: "BLOOM WHERE YOU ARE PLANTED"

When Dr. Mary Daly was 15 years old, she dropped out of high school to take on multiple part-time jobs to help support her family. She did not know where her life would take her, but a mentor's advice gave her the direction she needed: "Bloom where you are planted."

Now president and chief executive officer of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, Daly is passionate about sharing her story as a first-generation student whose winding path to leadership was driven by embracing every experience as a chance to grow. She visited The Preuss School in October to inspire students

from the Class of 2020 to believe in their ambitions and take advantage of every opportunity that comes their way.

During the panel discussion in the presence of more than 100 seniors, Daly emphasized the importance of being intentional. "Am I using talents that I've been given to their fullest potential? Am I giving my all? Am I doing this in the service of others?" She reminded students that they are a work in progress, and encouraged them to allow space for evolution. While they may begin their career path with one direction in mind, she reminded them to be open to a different calling if it arises.

Seniors led a panel session with Dr. Mary Daly



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE



From the moment they arrive at The Preuss School, our scholars have a college mindset. I recently visited a sixth grade class and asked each learner what brought them to our school. Their answers were moving.

"I want to make my parents proud."

"I want to be the first in my family to attend college."

"I want to achieve my dream of becoming an anesthesiologist."

"I want to get what my parents were not able to get: a college degree."

Education is transformational. It was for me, and it will be for each and every one of our incredible scholars. I know that because my story parallels many of our Preuss Tritons. I grew up in southeast San Diego and

graduated from UC San Diego. Taking on the role of the inaugural executive director of The Preuss School is a homecoming for me.

I am thrilled to be able to give back to a program that empowers low-income and first-generation scholars through an innovative college-bound culture. This work would not be possible without a team of highly talented and skillful educators who have a passion for elevating the lives of our scholars and the magic of loving and supportive parents.

My first priority is to become an expert on the unique components that support the vision of our world-class academic community. As I see it, The Preuss School UC San Diego is poised to reshape the face of public education. Our longer learning time, college-preparatory curriculum, and impactful connections to an internationally ranked university, UC San Diego, is a model that can be replicated across the nation. A model

such as The Preuss School has the potential to change communities, transform lives and create bright futures.

This August, on The Preuss School campus, we welcomed 140 talented new scholars to our family of learners. I cherish every opportunity to engage with our scholars and hear about their hopes and dreams. In every interaction, I relay the message that they were each born with a destiny for greatness and the sky's the limit when paired with hard work and dedication.

I am excited to lead our entire learning community to greater heights in this new year and beyond.

Yours in service,

**DR. HELEN V. GRIFFITH**

Executive Director  
The Preuss School UC San Diego

## ALUMNI UPDATES



**ALICIA THOMAS '09**

Alicia Thomas earned a bachelor's degree in political science and international studies from UC San Diego in 2013. Currently, she works in marketing and strategy, reaching

and sharing creative content through integrated multi-channel marketing. Thomas previously worked as the alumni marketing coordinator at The Preuss School from 2010–2013, which sparked her career path in marketing. As an entrepreneur, she is also working to launch a new brand in the pet industry that will simplify the way pet owners commute with their pets.



**ALYSON DE LA ROSA '11**

Alyson De La Rosa earned a bachelor's degree in social welfare with double minors in education and south/southeast Asian studies from UC Berkeley

in 2015. She recently graduated from San Diego State University with a master's degree in social work and received her pupil personnel services (PPS) credential this past May. De La Rosa currently works for a nonprofit agency as a mental health therapist at a local high school providing individual and group therapy. She is also working on obtaining hours to become a licensed clinical social worker.



The Preuss School students posing with their plein air paintings

And students took their brushes outside to experience plein air painting. Artist Jeff Yeomans visited the campus to demonstrate the technique of painting in nature. Students also traveled to Scripps Institution of Oceanography where they sketched the coastline from the pier, as well as trekked Torrey Pines with docents to learn about marine ecology and fill their canvas with the ocean view.

## SPOTLIGHT ON THE ARTS

## MATTHEW STRAUSS INTRODUCES STUDENTS TO THE EXCITING WORLD OF CONTEMPORARY ART

Neo-Dadaism, cubism, abstract expressionism—what do all of these "isms" mean, and what do they look like? Over 30 students from The Preuss School had the chance to become immersed in the world of contemporary art and the curatorial process on Oct. 10. They explored the one-of-a-kind collection of philanthropists Iris and Matthew Strauss, housed in a 6,000-square-foot gallery and sculpture garden with works from 100 artists.

During the two-hour sweeping art history tour, students learned about different movements by seeing them firsthand, from the graphic color field interpretations of Sarah Morris to a recycled media sculpture by former UC San Diego professor Italo Scanga and a Picasso appropriation piece by Fred Wilson. Students were exposed

to painting and sculpture, video and photography, as well as mixed media from artists around the world, representing art from 1980 to the present.

Iris and Matthew Strauss have made a significant impact on UC San Diego—and throughout the region—with support in areas including arts, culture and cancer research. The Strauss family has supported many initiatives across the campus for nearly three decades.

In addition to the art collection tour, students at The Preuss School have many opportunities to get creative, express their ideas and interact with artists throughout the year. For example, students participated in a workshop with artist Jay Schlossberg-Cohen, who is leading a mural project with The Preuss School and UC San Diego's Thurgood Marshall College. The piece centers around themes of social justice and empowering student artists to define their individual and collective narratives.

# BULLETIN BOARD!



**LPL Financial and Northern Trust made a generous donation** of school supplies this year during our "Back to School" drive.



Join us for **Homecoming on Dec. 19, 2019.**



The Class of 2009 celebrates their **10<sup>th</sup> reunion on Dec. 20, 2019**, at Ballast Point Miramar.



The next **Preuss Promise Celebration** will take place on **April 17, 2020**, at Hilton La Jolla Torrey Pines.



**The Chancellor's Associates Scholars Program Freshman Induction Ceremony will be taking place on April 21, 2020, 6:00–8:00 p.m.** at the Reuben H. Fleet Science Center at Balboa Park. Since the program started in 2013, 180 graduates of The Preuss School have benefitted from the transformational scholarship.

## A RECORD-SETTING BREAKFAST GARNERS \$1,000 FOR SENIOR CLASS

Breakfast is the most important meal of the day. The Preuss School senior class tapped into this principle when designing their annual fundraiser. On a cloudy morning on Sept. 28, the team of students partnered with trendy local breakfast eatery Snooze. The collaboration was made possible thanks to alumna Jazmin Gomez, who graduated from The Preuss School in 2009 and currently works with the restaurant.

Alumni, faculty, staff and community friends of The Preuss School arrived with an appetite, dining on delicious pineapple upside down pancakes, Mediterranean breakfast bowls, avocado toast and more. A portion of all sales was contributed to the senior class fundraiser, making this year a record success with over \$1,000 raised. The funds go toward supporting Class of 2020 activities as well as the senior class gift, which will be presented before graduation in June.

"Despite it being a gloomy morning, the delicious food warmed us up," said senior Pariss Payne, ASB President. "The fundraiser was a huge success and we are very thankful for our partnership with Snooze!"

Thanks to a longer learning time, students are in school longer each day and for 18 more days a year than the typical student in California, which adds up to almost an entire extra academic year over the course of their middle and high school careers. Our scholars are accepted to four-year colleges and universities at a rate of more than 90 percent, and almost 100 percent go on to some form of higher education.



The Preuss School students partnered with the local breakfast eatery Snooze for their annual fundraiser



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