



## LIGHTING THE WAY

### Preuss Benefit Helps Ensure Bright Future for Students

Through the generous support of many loyal friends, our annual benefit (The Preuss Promise) netted nearly \$350,000 to support The Preuss School UCSD's Longer Learning Time campaign to sustain the longer school year. This year's theme, Lighting the Way, reflected Preuss' role as a beacon of opportunity, providing low-income and first-generation students with a pathway to a brighter future.



Lighting the Way event committee

UC San Diego Chancellor Pradeep K. Khosla opened the program by speaking about the importance of broadening the path to higher education. Preuss alumnus Jonathan Wosen '09, a graduate of Williams College who is now pursuing his doctorate in immunology at Stanford University, spoke about how Preuss shaped his life and ignited his interest in science. The event also featured music, science and robotics demonstrations and a fine-arts exhibit by Preuss students.

Special thanks to the generous sponsors and volunteers who made the benefit possible:

**Event Committee Co-Chairs:** Peggy Preuss, Darcy Bingham, Svetlana Weil and Erin Preuss

**Table and Event Sponsors:** The Preuss Family Foundation, Darcy and Bob Bingham, Svetlana and Matthew Weil, The Weil Family Foundation, Sempra, Sanford Burnham, UCSD Alumni, UC San Diego Academic Affairs, Amy Chiu, Wain and Debby Fishburn, and John and Gabi Otterson

**Live-Auction Donors:** The Burnham Family, Change a Life Foundation, Green Flash Beer, Stuart and Sheri Jamieson, The Old Globe, San Diego City Firefighters Local 145, and *The World*

Together, we are ensuring that the transformative power of a Preuss education is available for generations to come.

### Gift From The Parker Foundation Supports Longer Learning Time

The Parker Foundation, a San Diego nonprofit, has helped kick-start The Preuss School UCSD's campaign for Longer Learning Time, awarding the school a three-year, \$20,000-per-year grant. The grant will fund one of Preuss' 23 additional school days for each year it is awarded.

"I was really impressed with what The Preuss School does," said Paul Mosher, emeritus board member of The Parker Foundation. "These students are receiving a kind of opportunity that will impact their lives forever."

The campaign, launched earlier this academic year, supports the longer school day and school year at Preuss. For more information or to make a gift, please visit [preuss.ucsd.edu/campaign](http://preuss.ucsd.edu/campaign).



Jonathan Wosen and Chancellor Khosla

## BULLETIN BOARD

- Congratulations to seniors Leslie Chavez and Daniel Million, who were recently selected as **2014 Gates Millennium Scholars!** The two were among 1,000 students nationwide to receive a prestigious scholarship, which covers all college costs through graduation. Chavez and Million are the 27th and 28th Preuss students over the last eight years to receive the coveted honor. Chavez will attend Columbia University this fall, and Million will head to the University of Southern California.
- Thank you to everyone who participated in **Birdies for Charity**, part of the Farmers Insurance Open earlier this year. With your help we succeeded in raising nearly \$10,000 for Preuss.

## ALUMNI UPDATES

Amanda Esquivel (back row, left) and the Preuss girls varsity soccer team



### Amanda Esquivel '05

Esquivel graduated from UC San Diego in 2009 as a psychology major with a minor in public service. She received her master's degree in marriage and family therapy from the University of San Diego and is a counselor with Breaking Cycles. She also coaches the Preuss girls varsity soccer team and led them all the way to the California Interscholastic Federation finals this year, where they placed second in their division.



Mustafa Malik

### Mustafa Malik '12

Finishing his sophomore year at Yale University, Malik plans on majoring in political science with a possible double major in psychology. Last summer he interned at Ahli United Bank, one of the sultanate of Oman's leading commercial and investment banks. This summer he plans to study political science and international relations at the London School of Economics and Political Science. Still determining his future career path, he said, "The opportunities are limitless as long as I continue to dream big."



## Class of 2014 Celebrates Success

As the Class of 2014 prepares for the next chapter of their lives, they can celebrate all that they have accomplished at Preuss. As of the time of publication, 79 of 86 seniors were admitted to at least one four-year college or university. Thirty-four students plan to attend University of California schools—19 seniors will attend UC San Diego as Chancellor's Associates Scholars—and 29 students plan to attend a California State University campus. Other students will attend Columbia University, University of Southern California, Northwestern University, Mills College and the University of Seattle. Congratulations to all our Preuss graduates!

## Preuss Is Tops in Recent Rankings

The Preuss School has been ranked the best high school in San Diego County by *U.S. News & World Report* in its recently released annual list of Best High Schools. The school is also ranked the 5th best high school in California, the 10th best charter school in the country and 42nd overall in the nation. The accolades come on the heels of another recent ranking by *The Washington Post*, which named Preuss as one of America's Most Challenging High Schools. Preuss was rated the most challenging high school in San Diego County, 4th in California and 29th in the nation.



**Stay up-to-date!** Connect with us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/ThePreussSchoolUCSD](http://www.facebook.com/ThePreussSchoolUCSD) or send your email address to [adittmar@ucsd.edu](mailto:adittmar@ucsd.edu) to receive important announcements and updates.

## PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

As another academic year draws to a close, it's time to celebrate the success of our students. While their hard work



and determination have been instrumental in preparing them for this moment, there has been another key element to their success: our dedicated teachers.

Preuss teachers are thoughtful, caring and deeply committed to our mission and our students. Many have been recognized for their efforts over the years with

various awards and accolades. Recent faculty honors:

- Shannon Baird, advanced biology and Advanced Placement environmental science teacher, was awarded a Frontiers in Physiology fellowship by the American Physiology Society. She was one of only 14 K–12 educators nationwide to be named a 2014–15 fellow.
- Jason Flesock of our Science Department was named a finalist for the San Diego Unified School District Teacher of the Year.
- Danielle Agliam of our Exercise and Health Science Department was named a finalist for the La Jolla Golden Triangle Rotary Club Educator of the Year award.

And while many of our exceptional teachers remain with Preuss for years, it is

to be expected that some will leave to pursue what is best for them and their families. Oscar Ramos, our Social Studies Department chair, is moving with his family to Texas after the end of the school year. While all of us at Preuss wish Oscar the best, we will miss him very much. During his seven years at Preuss, Oscar has had a tremendous impact on his students and our school.

I hope you will join with me in thanking our incredible faculty for everything they do. Preuss would not be the school it is today without them.

Best regards,

Scott Barton  
Principal

## SPOTLIGHT

### Khoa Phan '08 Video Animator

Khoa Phan has always considered himself to be an imaginative type. However, he didn't exactly expect his doodles and ideas for animations to lead to working with major brands like Coca Cola, UNICEF, Peanuts Worldwide and Michael Kors. Since graduating from The Preuss School UCSD in 2008, Phan has found a niche creating stop-motion videos for a variety of businesses. Earlier this year, *Forbes* recognized Phan in its 30 Under 30 list, an annual roundup of rising talent in fields ranging from finance and technology to entertainment and sports. Phan was included in the marketing category.

"To be able to share my creative mind with these amazing companies and their customers feels unreal," said Phan. "My goal in life has always been to do something that I enjoy and I think I've accomplished that."

Phan credits his Preuss education with providing the foundation and encouragement to pursue his creative ambitions.

He recalls teachers who challenged him and offered opportunities to explore his artistic side. What stands out the most in his memories, though, are the students at Preuss.

"The student body was so diverse and we all came from different backgrounds," said Phan, who is originally from Vietnam. "But we were all dreamers. We were all

working toward achieving our academic goals and heading into our futures."

One of Phan's long-term creative goals is to work on a major commercial. For now, he's happy to be starting new projects with a few Fortune 500 brands. "I can't really say what I'll be working on, but I can say that they should be fun!"



Jean Schulz (widow of Peanuts creator, Charles M. Schulz) and Khoa Phan

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## FOCUS ON PTA President Michael Million

Michael Million joined the Preuss PTA in 2005 when his daughter, Miriam, started her first year at The Preuss School UCSD as a seventh grader. Now, after two years serving as PTA president, and with his son, Daniel, graduating from Preuss, Million is stepping down.

The desire to give back is what motivated Million's involvement with the PTA, a network of dedicated parents who help to ensure their students' successes. PTA parents attend monthly meetings and participate in at least 15 hours per year of school service. For

parents the PTA also provides information, tools and opportunities to learn new skills.

Million is proud to see both of his students excel through Preuss. Miriam is currently at John Hopkins University, and Daniel will attend the University of Southern California in the fall. Both are Gates Millennium Scholars.

"I am grateful for the opportunity to take advantage of the Preuss Promise," said Million. "As parents, we should do as much as we can to support the school and our students."



Miriam and Michael Million