



Students learned computer-aided design during the conference.

Girls in STEM Conference a Success

Female middle school students at Preuss participated in the school's first Girls in STEM Conference this fall. Designed to encourage girls to pursue education and careers in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), the conference was created and hosted by female members of Preuss' robotics team.

During the daylong event, participants used software to design jewelry, listened to a "Body Positive" talk given by Preuss peer counselors and met with local female STEM professionals. Thanks to participating organizations, including UC San Diego; San Diego State University; County of San Diego; Association of Women in Science-San Diego; The Scripps Research Institute; Qualcomm; Northrop Grumman; IT Tech Pros; NAT Diagnostics, Inc.; BE WiSE (Better Education for Women in Science and Engineering); and Pacific Ridge School.

HONORING PREUSS VISIONARIES

Cecil Lytle and Bud Mehan Awarded Prestigious Revelle Medals

More than 40 board members, Founders' Circle members and friends of The Preuss School UCSD came together at Preuss recently to celebrate UC San Diego faculty emeriti Cecil Lytle and Bud Mehan's recognition as 2015 Revelle Medalists. The Revelle Medal, along with the Chancellor's Medal, is awarded during the campus's annual Founders Celebration. Both medals laud the visionaries who helped make UC San Diego a top research university.

"It is a privilege to honor these inspirational visionaries and supporters," said Chancellor Pradeep K. Khosla of the Revelle and Chancellor's Medalists. "They have all played an instrumental role in transforming our community and our campus, building UC San Diego into a top-tier university that is making a positive impact locally and around the globe."

The Revelle Medal—created in honor of Roger Revelle, who helped establish

UC San Diego during his tenure from 1950–64 as director of Scripps Institution of Oceanography—recognizes current and former faculty for sustained, distinguished and extraordinary service to UC San Diego. Lytle and Mehan were awarded this special honor, in part, because of their efforts to create The Preuss School.

"Without Cecil Lytle and Bud Mehan's leadership, vision and tenacity, The Preuss School would not have come to fruition," said former UC San Diego Chancellor and Preuss School Founders' Circle Chair Robert C. Dynes, who spoke at the Preuss event honoring Lytle and Mehan.

During the event, Principal Scott Barton and Chancellor Emeritus Dynes also presented Lytle and Mehan with the "keys" to The Preuss School, in recognition for their outstanding commitment to academic equality. Congratulations to these two visionary leaders!



From left, Principal Scott Barton, Cecil Lytle, Bud Mehan and Chancellor Emeritus Robert C. Dynes. Lytle and Mehan were presented with the "keys" to Preuss.

BULLETIN BOARD

- Recent donations to The Preuss School have been music to our ears! Many thanks to **Molli and the late Arthur Wagner** for their donation of a grand piano, and to **Comerica Bank** for donating funds to purchase new violins and violas. The ability to offer a music program is an important part of our curriculum and ensures our students receive a truly well-rounded education.
- Kudos to Preuss' robotics team, the **Midnight Mechanics**, for sharing the joy of robotics with the community. Members of the team recently held a workshop at the Mira Mesa Barnes & Noble to teach children how to drive the robot and to talk to children and adults about robotics, Preuss and how to get involved in a First Lego League robotics team. The team members made such a good impression, they'll be doing more events with Barnes & Noble in the future.

ALUMNI UPDATES

Reyna Pacheco '12

A senior at Columbia University, Pacheco is also a professional squash player ranked 95th in the world. She was introduced to the sport while at Preuss thanks to a partnership the school has with Access Youth Academy, which runs an urban squash program. Pacheco, an urban studies major with a concentration in political science, hopes to break into the top 30 in squash rankings and to one day work as a diplomat for the United States.



Reyna Pacheco

Minh Quan Ly '13

Ly is majoring in mechanical engineering at UC San Diego and expects to graduate in 2017. In his free time, he volunteers at Preuss mentoring the FIRST robotics team in designing and building robots.



Minh Quan Ly



One of two telescopes that students used to view celestial objects.

Preuss Students Search the Stars

From nebulae to globular clusters, the wonders of the night sky came alive recently for a few lucky Preuss students. The students, members of the AP astrophysics class, were invited to participate in a "star party" at the San Diego Astronomy Association's remote Tierra Del Sol observation site in East San Diego County near the Mexican border. For many, it was their first glimpse of a truly starry night.

"I've never seen a sky like that before," said senior Stephania Moreno. "It was really cool to be able to use the telescopes and have SDAA members explaining everything we were looking at. I'm looking forward to our spring star party."

The star party was made possible thanks to the newly-established Terry Arnold Rising Stars program at Preuss. Funded by the late Terry Arnold—a successful entrepreneur and accomplished engineer and scientist with a passion for astrophysics—and his wife, Susi Kniel, the program seeks to enhance the existing STEM curriculum at Preuss with an astrophysics/astronomy component. As part of the program, Preuss has established an afterschool astronomy club, an AP astrophysics class and schedules star parties with SDAA throughout the year. Through the program, Preuss is also establishing a network of mentors and collaborators from UC San Diego and SDAA who work closely with students.



Stay up-to-date! Connect with us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ThePreussSchoolUCSD or send your email address to kdyoung@ucsd.edu to receive important announcements and updates.

PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE



It has been an exciting fall at Preuss. From hosting our first STEM Conference for Girls to the expansion of our STEM curriculum through the introduction of astronomy and astrophysics, it is

our privilege to expose students to the excitement and wonder that comes from exploring the many branches of science.

According to the U.S. Department of Education, only 16 percent of American high school seniors are proficient in mathematics and interested in a STEM career. Yet STEM occupations are slated to grow 1.7 times faster than non-STEM

occupations over the period from 2008–18, according to the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

Since Preuss opened its doors, we have longed championed the importance of science, technology, engineering and math education whether through our curriculum or through co-curricular activities such as our robotics program. These fields are the key to unlocking a bright future for many students, and we must ensure our students get the education they need to succeed in this area.

But we don't promote STEM by ignoring the arts. Studies have shown that students with arts-rich experiences in high school have higher overall GPAs than students who lacked those experiences, and that students who study music

outperform their peers on math tests. At Preuss, the arts are an equally important part of our curriculum, essential for building creative thinkers and innovators.

Our ability to offer our students a truly well-rounded education is thanks, in part, to unique collaborations, partnerships and the generosity of friends, like you.

On behalf of everyone at Preuss, thank you for everything you do. I wish you all a happy holiday season and healthy new year.

Best regards,

Scott Barton
Principal

SPOTLIGHT

Oscar Hernandez '07, Medical Student

Growing up in a neighborhood plagued with gangs and crime, Oscar Hernandez found refuge in education. He attended The Preuss School UCSD and was accepted to UC San Diego, where he studied physiology and neuroscience. Now a first-year medical student at UC Irvine, he is pursuing his goal of becoming a doctor and giving back to the underserved Latino community.

"I didn't know anyone in college growing up," said Hernandez. "My parents never even graduated from high school." Hernandez was 18 months old when his parents carried him into the U.S. from Mexico. He credits his mother and father for instilling in him the value of hard work and the importance of education.

As a senior at The Preuss School, Hernandez attended a conference on medicine at UC San Diego, which sparked his interest in the field. However, his dream of becoming a doctor was postponed when

financial barriers arose. During his undergraduate studies, he quit school for two years to help revive his family's business and pay off student debt, working three jobs to cover expenses.

Hernandez graduated from UC San Diego in 2014—the first in his family to earn a college degree. He is now part of UC Irvine's Program in Medical Education for the Latino Community. He credits The Preuss School for exposing him to new opportunities and preparing him for the challenging medical school curriculum.

"Preuss prepared me for how to study," explained Hernandez, who intends to be a



Oscar Hernandez (middle) with his parents at the UC Irvine School of Medicine white coat ceremony. Photo credit: Eveline Shih-Pitcairn/UC Irvine

voice for Latino rights and health. "Medical school is a lot like Preuss in that you are in class all day, then you go home and study all night. The curriculum was tough, but I really enjoyed my time there."

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9500 Gilman Dr. # 0536, La Jolla, CA 92093-0536 | preuss.ucsd.edu

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

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FOCUS ON Mentorship Program

Mentors play a significant role at The Preuss School UCSD. They act as role models, teachers and friends, encouraging and motivating students to pursue their educational and personal goals. Often the exchange between the pair is educational for both, as each person gains something from the relationship.

LPL Financial Foundation has been a steadfast supporter of our mentorship program, contributing financial and volunteer support since 2013. Mentorship is a cornerstone of the foundation, providing employee volunteers the

opportunity to leverage and grow their skill sets through meaningful support of their communities.

“We believe that personal, one-on-one connections developed through the program create a more engaged employee and make a positive impact on students so they are empowered to dream bigger,” said Kathleen Zemaitis, LPL senior vice president for internal communication and social responsibility.

We thank LPL Financial Foundation—and all our mentors—for the invaluable



LPL employee Tom Young with his mentee, Billy

service they provide for our students. If you are interested in becoming a mentor, please contact preussvolunteer@ucsd.edu.