



THE PREUSS PROMISE POSTPONEMENT

We were looking forward to seeing you all for our annual fundraiser, The Preuss Promise, on September 17, 2021. Unfortunately, out of an abundance of caution, we have made the decision to postpone our celebration to spring 2022. We look

forward to your continued support and ask that you save the date for Giving Tuesday (November 30, 2021) as we raise funds for our scholars.

Thank you for all you do for the promise!

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 Tyler J. Morningstar at (858) 246-0327 or tmorningstar@ucsd.edu.

WE'VE GONE DIGITAL!

To sign up for the electronic version of Preussline, please email tmorningstar@ucsd.edu.



FOCUS ON



A LITERARY TREASURE TROVE

In honor of Read Across America Day, Random House Children's Books donated more than 850 books to The Preuss School to expand the home libraries for all scholars. Each collection included an age-appropriate book that students can read now, a higher reading level book that students can aspire to read, as well as a children's book that students can share with younger readers in their family.

"Thanks to this generous donation from Dr. Seuss Enterprises and Random

House, our scholars will have the opportunity to strengthen their literacy skills, explore topics of diversity and foster intergenerational reading with family and community members. This is a transformational experience," said Dr. Helen V. Griffith.

The books were distributed by The Preuss School's Scholar Support Mobile, organized and led by librarians Karen Nance and Maria Gonzalez. The library-on-wheels offers scholars a chance to pick up and return physical library books and textbooks as well as art, engineering and music supplies in a community near them.

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UC San Diego



SUMMER 2021

#1 IN SAN DIEGO



U.S. News & World Report recently named The Preuss School UC San Diego the #1 high school in San Diego County in their 2021 list of Best High Schools. The ranking also placed The Preuss School #6 in California among 2,598 schools and #76 nationally among 17,857 schools across the U.S.

In addition, the California Department of Education recognized The Preuss School as a 2021 California Distinguished School. "These schools are great examples of California's commitment to provide outstanding public education for all students, and their data-driven efforts have helped ensure that their students leave with the tools and skills they need to be successful after graduation," said State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond.

CLASS OF 2021 A MODEL OF RESILIENCE

The Preuss School's Class of 2021 spent their entire senior year learning remotely. Despite the challenges of missing friends, digital fatigue and transitioning events and clubs online, scholars sustained their academic excellence. Among 108 seniors, 96 percent were accepted to at least one four-year college or university, while a record 52 were accepted to UC San Diego. The entire cohort will be the first in their family to graduate from college.

The senior class amassed more than \$3 million dollars in scholarships and grants, including Christopher Santiago, who will move to Connecticut this fall to attend Yale University with a full scholarship. He plans to study astrophysics and one day become an astronaut.

"Preuss definitely set me up for success; it taught me the value of routine, the need for rigor, and overall, the need to be proud," said Santiago. "It had been seven long years and it just does not seem real to be ending it all within a few months. I am excited to start a new chapter, and nervous to move across the country."

Scholars were celebrated at an in-person commencement ceremony on June 17 at Manchester Field on The Preuss School campus. The event featured remarks from school leadership, faculty, students and a pre-recorded keynote address by California Secretary of State Dr. Shirley Weber.

"You have thrived as the only Preuss senior class to complete your last year of high school in a worldwide pandemic—rallying for justice with Black Lives Matter, standing against Asian Hate—and you have become socially conscious in a way that will change our world," said Dr. Helen V. Griffith at commencement.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE



Commencement is always a special day, but our June 17 ceremony held so much more meaning than ever before. After 15 months of being separated by a computer screen, the Class of 2021 had the chance to reunite in person before beginning their journey to college.

I am so proud of our graduates, whose perseverance has secured them a position at prestigious universities across the nation, from UC San Diego to Princeton and Yale. The entire class will be the first in their family to graduate from college—an accomplishment we prepare them to meet from the first day they arrive at The Preuss School.

And their dreams are big. Vyvy Nguyen '21 plans to attend UCLA in the fall to become an OB-GYN doctor so that she can empower and support women throughout their pregnancies.

Alexis Barajas '21 will attend UC San Diego to study cognitive psychology. Her goal is to become a clinical psychologist to serve hospitalized children, motivated by her own

brother's experience working with a speech and physical therapist.

As we congratulate our seniors, we have also developed opportunities for our continuing students to gain experience that will propel them as outstanding college candidates. We welcomed 150 scholars in grades six through 12 to our summer academy, which was hosted in partnership with UC San Diego Athletics, the Reuben H. Fleet Science Center and The Birch Aquarium at Scripps Institution of Oceanography. Scholars were able to engage in online learning with faculty, paraeducators and tutors as well as take part in athletic games and science camps led by The Fleet and Birch Aquarium.

In addition, scholars had the chance to work with professionals and learn about the fundamentals of business ownership through the Start R Teen program at UC San Diego's Rady School of Management. Scholars created a business plan and pitched their bright ideas to industry representatives, as well as toured a business incubator nearby.

Summer also presented an opportunity for our high schoolers to enroll in free undergraduate courses at UC San Diego thanks to a grant provided by the UC San Diego Summer School Office. The courses they complete will be added to their high

school transcript, given weighted credit and are completely transferrable to any college or university. Through our unique connection to the university, we are preparing our scholars to thrive once they reach higher education and beyond.

As we begin the new academic year, we are continuing to be vigilant about safety during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. Between April and July, The Preuss School hosted five vaccination clinics where more than 1,000 vaccines were administered to scholars and their families, as well as community members living in the hardest hit areas of San Diego. We have resumed in-person instruction, beginning in August, with enhanced safety measures.

It is always a bittersweet moment to bid farewell to our graduating class. I have no doubt that these exceptional individuals will make a difference in their chosen field, and within their communities. I can't wait to see the great changes they will inspire.



DR. HELEN V. GRIFFITH
Executive Director
The Preuss School UC San Diego

be one of them. Kim wears many hats at The Preuss School—including 10th grade chemistry teacher and Associated Student Body advisor—but his role as technology coordinator came to the fore when the COVID-19 pandemic started.

Over the past three years, Kim has been improving access to learning wherever students are. Leveraging the unique connection to UC San Diego as well as the dedicated support of donors, the school was able to deploy laptops and hotspots to each scholar within two weeks of the start of the pandemic to enable remote learning.

His leadership was lauded with a 2021 Charter Star Award for "Outstanding Innovator," one of seven local Charter Star Awards that recognize local efforts to improve charter public education in San Diego.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



Jan Gabay: 'You Are the Embodiment of Hope'

The idea to launch a charter school at UC San Diego was initially met with strong skepticism. Yet the educational experiment has succeeded beyond expectations.

Jan Gabay can attest to this success. She was among the first teachers hired at the new school, which enrolled its first students in 1999. Gabay described her 22-year journey at The Preuss School's Commencement Ceremony in a legacy address and offered words of wisdom to the graduating class.

"You, scholars, as the 18th graduating class of The Preuss School UC San Diego, are the full realization of that long-ago vision, that dream," said Gabay during the ceremony.

"The goal of your teachers has been to have you graduate today as your own teacher."

Former students submitted videos expressing their gratitude for her tutelage and support. "I love to read today because Ms. Gabay made sure I saw myself in literature," said one alumnus.

"As a National Board-Certified English teacher, Teacher of the Year, Master Teacher, Staff Developer and the last founding member of the Preuss School staff, Ms. Jan Gabay is a foundational pillar," shared Dr. Helen V. Griffith at commencement. "She is a consummate professional, a phenomenal educator and an all-around fun person!"



Ted Kim: 'Defeating the Digital Divide'

In a year full of so many challenges, Ted Kim did not want learning to

ALUMNI UPDATES



KANE DIEP, PREUSS '07

Kane Diep attended UC San Diego to study visual arts with an emphasis in film. He went on to produce over 200 videos for BuzzFeed, which

collectively garnered over one billion views, on topics such as Asian American identity, LGBTQ+ experiences and self-improvement. Most recently, he launched the popular Amazon Prime Video TikTok account. "As a space for individuals from all different upbringings, Preuss really established what the 'norm' could be in society and helped shape my high levels of empathy as an adult," said Diep.



MARIAM SHAMLOW, PREUSS '10

Mariam Shamlow earned a bachelor's degree in psychology and social behavior with a minor in Spanish from UC Irvine

and a master's degree in industrial-organizational psychology from The Chicago School of Professional Psychology. As an administration solutions consultant at LPL Financial, Shamlow is passionate about integrating employee well-being in the workplace. On Preuss, she says: "Not only was I given ample resources that prepared me to be a first-generation college graduate, but I also made lifelong connections with teachers and other individuals who are now my mentors."

BULLETIN BOARD!

★ **We are grateful for the contributions of our board members who have recently stepped down from their position:** Monica Haas, eight years as chair of the Budget and Finance Committee; Jawid Habib '06, three years of service as co-chair of the Engagement and Philanthropy Committee; and Robert Busacca, two years of service on the Governance Committee.

♥ **Thank you to the BIPOC Support Foundation,** who donated over 100 backpacks for our graduating seniors as they prepare to attend college in the fall.

👤 **The Preuss School is seeking volunteer tutors and mentors,** speakers for the Professional Lecture Series as well as volunteers for events such as senior presentations and mock interviews. If you'd like to get involved, please contact Dr. Jacqueline Aizee-Brewer, Volunteer Coordinator at **858-822-0020** or preussvolunteer@ucsd.edu.

TECH TALKS WITH INDUSTRY EXPERTS

What types of careers will be available in the technology industry over the next 20 years? A new professional lecture series was launched at The Preuss School in fall 2020 to introduce scholars to professionals who could share insights about their work and the path to their career.

Sachin Deshpande, senior director at Qualcomm Ventures and volunteer at The Preuss School, was instrumental in creating the program with Tamika Franklin, former director of development for The Preuss School. Deshpande said, "I thought to myself a lot of high school students were probably down during the pandemic. Why not give a little hope and share opportunities in new technology industries?"

Whereas some scholars may be intimidated by the prospect, Deshpande wanted to dispel myths about barriers to entering the industry. "When people hear technology, they think that it is only engineering jobs. But there are other related technology careers in finance, marketing and project management, which are great paths too."

The first professional lecture series was held in October and focused on "Careers in the High Technology Sector." Deshpande moderated the one-hour program, where scholars could learn more and ask questions to the head of communications at Zoom, the senior eCommerce strategist at Salesforce.com and the co-founder of Unleash AI Fund.

The monthly events are open to 10th and 11th grade scholars and were presented virtually on Zoom. So far, a total of 20 lectures have been held, including a conversation with Summer Stephan, district attorney of San Diego; Rob Vazquez, chief operating officer of the Energy Group at General Atomics; Javi Grillo Marxuach, television screenwriter and producer; and David Artis, dean of undergraduate research advancement at UC San Diego.

Deshpande's next idea? "It would be great to be able to offer interactive office hours once a month or every quarter with industry experts from San Diego and across the globe."



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