

Immediate Past Chair



Peter G. Preuss '67

UC San Diego, La Jolla and the United States are inextricably interwoven from the standpoint of Peter Preuss. When Peter left Hanover, Germany in 1965, he arrived in La Jolla enrolled as one of the first graduate-level students in a brand-new university's Mathematics Department. "I'm the oldest alum around," Peter jokes. "I came when there were 320 students at UC San Diego, and I have always been involved with UC since – anything you can imagine. UCSD has been a part of my life since I came to the U.S."

As President of UC San Diego's Alumni Association in 1995, Peter acted as liaison on the UC Regents board for a year, and soon after was appointed by Governor Pete Wilson to the 12-year term as a UC Regent, which he completed in 2008. Now he joins the UCSD Foundation Board of Trustees, adding to his extensive campus curriculum vitae, which includes serving on advisory boards and councils from Health Sciences to Humanities, from Biological Sciences to Athletics. He and his wife, Peggy, have been Chancellor's Associates since 1988, and are longtime, very generous supporters of the campus.

Among their finest philanthropic accomplishments is The Preuss School UC San Diego, a middle and high school on the UCSD campus with a mission to provide low-income, first-generation college-going students with the opportunity to excel academically. Early on, Peter and Peggy believed in the vision of the school, and their support – including extensive volunteer time – has paid off immensely for the students.

Peter was the founder and head of ISSCO, Integrated Software Systems Corporation, a San Diego-based company, until it was purchased by Computer Associates in 1986. ISSCO was originally formed in 1970 without outside capital, and grew into one of the world's leading independent developers and suppliers of visual information systems software used to create high quality graphics for business, government, scientific, engineering and project management applications.

Peter was a founder and long-time director of the National Computer Graphics Association. Some of the companies he serves or has served on the Board of Directors are: Biosym Technologies, Inc., CENTRAX Corporation, Dr. Design, Inc., DepoTech Corporation (DEPO), DOME Imaging Systems, Inc., EGEA Biosciences, Inc., GPC-Biotech GmbH, Network Computing Devices, Inc. (NCDI), Overland Storage, Inc., Scripps Translational Science Institute Advisory Board, Sierra Geophysics, Inc., Execucom, Westec Services and Wright Strategies, Inc.

Born in Berlin, Germany, Peter received his undergraduate education at the Technical University of Hanover. An honorary fellowship allowed him to enroll in the Graduate School of Mathematics at UC San Diego, where he earned a Master's Degree. He had completed most of the work toward a Ph.D. when he founded ISSCO.

In 1985, Peter founded The Preuss Foundation, Inc., which specializes in fostering communication among scientists in the field of cancer. The Preuss Foundation has hosted and sponsored thirty-five seminars and conferences for various specialty areas of cancer research as they pertain to CNS malignancies.

Peter served a term on the Advisory Committee to the Director of the National Institutes of Health, and serves or has served on the boards of the following institutions: The Sanford Burnham Institute for Medical Research, The National Brain Tumor Foundation, Duke University Cancer Center Board of Overseers, the Board of Overseers UC San Diego, Board of Overseers, Dartmouth Medical School, the California Council on Science and Technology and The Bishop's School Board of Trustees. He is a past president of the UC San Diego Cancer Center Foundation, and served on its board of directors since 1984.

Peter is also an active member of the UCSD-CONNECT Steering Committee and sits on the board of the San Diego BioCommerce Association Inc. (BIOCOM). In addition, he serves on the Board of Trustees of the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute and the Mathematisches Forschungsinstitut Oberwolfach, and National Conflict Resolution Center. He has been presented with the Special Recognition Award of the National Computer Graphics Association and the Distinguished Service Award from the American Association of Neurological Surgeons and Congress of Neurological Surgeons for his outstanding contributions to neuro-oncology.