

From the Director...



Exploration and discovery have inspired new understanding of our ocean planet since Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UC San Diego was founded. Today that spirit thrives and places Scripps Oceanography in a unique position to put its knowledge and discoveries to work for science and society.

Basic research will always be the foundation of our mission “to seek, teach, and communicate scientific understanding of the oceans, atmosphere, Earth, and other planets for the benefit of society and the environment.” Our fundamental observations of the seas, the air, and the land generate a legacy of priceless data—from the Keeling Curve to Argo and the CalCOFI observations of the California Current ecosystem—that reveal how the planet works.

Now, the information and knowledge from these observations and research do much more. They help us pave the way to science-based solutions for a world confronted with daunting challenges that threaten future generations.

Scripps Oceanography is leading UC San Diego’s strategic theme of Understanding and Protecting the Planet, with emphasis on climate change impacts and adaptation, human health and the oceans, resilience to hazards, and innovative observation for the planet.

To meet these challenges, we will need to work alongside economists, engineers, policy experts, health specialists, and others. Such interdisciplinary collaboration is key as we respond to society’s urgent needs and translate our basic knowledge of the planet into information and strategies useful to end users. We could have no better partner in this effort than UC San Diego, recently ranked first in the nation and fourth in the world in earth and environmental research. Roger Revelle would be delighted!

This past year has seen a number of transformational gifts from remarkably generous supporters—gifts that endowed a new climate impacts and adaptation center, endowed an educational program at Birch Aquarium at Scripps, and endowed a new fund to provide discretionary funds for the director in perpetuity. Continuing legacies of support to the institution across generations, new gifts from the Munk and Scripps families are enabling the institution to fulfill its mission as never before.

Our hope for the future also comes in the form of the newest member of the Scripps fleet. In 2016, we excitedly anticipate the arrival of our newest research vessel, *Sally Ride*, which we will operate on behalf of the Office of Naval Research to help us explore our oceans with unprecedented range and capacity.

Our greatest contribution is educating the next generation of scientific leaders, from the graduate level to growing undergraduate ranks to high school and grade school students through our public outreach led by Birch Aquarium.

Fulfilling our mission takes all of us. Faculty, staff, and students within Scripps Oceanography and UC San Diego—working alongside our passionate donors, volunteers, and supporters—help us develop new strategies for a changing world. Together we are solving the environmental problems of tomorrow... today.

Margaret Leinen
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