



FROM THE DIRECTOR

I've had an exciting career as a research scientist and administrator, but during the past few months I discovered that few things in life are as exhilarating as the debut of a new research vessel.

In a year filled with stellar achievements and extraordinary highlights at Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UC San Diego, the arrival of our new ship (page 10) was truly a one-of-a-kind experience. Scripps took delivery of *Sally Ride*, America's newest research vessel, on July 1 from the U.S. Navy.

As you will see in photos throughout this report, the technologically advanced vessel made its way south this summer from a Washington state shipyard to San Diego. On August 26th R/V *Sally Ride* made an inspiring whistle stop off the Ellen Browning Scripps Memorial Pier in front of a crowd of excited onlookers to mark the ship's first visit to La Jolla en route to its home port at the Scripps Nimitz Marine Facility. More than 4,000 people visited the ship during public tours at the time of its official commissioning in October. The ship began science operations in November, the latest Scripps vessel allowing researchers to solve the planet's most vexing problems through discoveries that range from climate change to human health to natural disasters.

R/V *Sally Ride*'s arrival comes at an important time in Scripps Oceanography's history. New philanthropic gifts (page 24) have allowed Scripps to address critical challenges facing our planet. Among the many important gifts in the past year, Richard and Carol Dean Hertzberg donated \$5 million to Scripps to launch the Center for Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation; Joy Frieman, wife of late Scripps Director Ed Frieman, donated \$2.5 million to endow a faculty chair and fellowships focused on climate sustainability; Scripps Director's Council Chair Stephen Strachan provided a \$1 million gift to assist the director with faculty start-up funds and seed funding; and the Donald and Elizabeth Dickinson Foundation donated funds for a new instrument for innovative research in marine drug discovery for a range of human diseases.

Scripps Oceanography's research (page 4) celebrated milestones and demonstrated real-world innovation. Scripps' four research initiatives—climate change impacts and adaptation, human health and the oceans, resilience to hazards, and innovative technology to observe the planet—

were represented by highlights ranging from the centennial of seawater measurements at Scripps Pier to crucial identification of new faults in Southern California to a breakthrough in helping the world's poor access clean energy.

Scripps' educational (page 6) program grew at a rate unmatched in the institution's history. Scripps is welcoming 11 new faculty members, including five with joint appointments in other UC San Diego departments. During the past year Scripps also forged new paths in international collaborations (page 22) and alumni relations (page 20).

Focused retreats on long-term campus planning and outreach inspired new visions that will address functionality, sustainability, and management of the campus. Steve Gallagher, recently hired assistant vice chancellor for finance and operations, is leading discussions and planning on how the Scripps campus needs to evolve in the coming years and decades to meet the demands of a growing institution (page 26). Scripps Oceanography's outreach (page 8) to the community is more vibrant than ever and our retreat allowed us to develop plans to make it more effective.

Birch Aquarium at Scripps (page 18) set out on new paths this year under the direction of new Executive Director Harry Helling. The aquarium is integrating Scripps research into compelling displays for the public. In October the aquarium launched a new R/V *Sally Ride* gallery "Expedition at Sea," which combines immersive science, art, and technology as a precursor to a major new exhibit, *The Expedition*, opening at Birch Aquarium in 2017.

Everyone on campus, as well as our alums and supporters, have contributed to making this a most exhilarating year!

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