



FROM THE DIRECTOR

At Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UC San Diego, we work to better understand our planet so we can solve the world's most challenging environmental problems.

We chose Sustainability of the Oceans as a focus for this year's annual report as it is an issue of paramount international importance and an issue for which our work at Scripps Oceanography is critical. In June, Scripps had a major presence at the United Nations international conference on Sustainable Development Goal 14 – sustainability of the ocean – in New York (page 25).

We continued to make major discoveries in research this year, and you'll see a small selection of that work (pages 4-7) across Scripps' four focused research initiatives: climate change impacts and adaptation, human health and the oceans, resilience to hazards, and innovative technologies to observe the planet. All of these include work essential for ocean sustainability.

On the cover, we've highlighted coastal research being done by the Giddings Lab at the Los Peñasquitos Lagoon in Del Mar, Calif. More than just a beautiful image, it shows our work at the intersection of climate change impacts, human health, and technology. Scripps scientists study sand movement near the lagoon inlet and how waves transport sand into the intermittently open estuary. This research helps inform coastal managers how to maintain the health of estuaries, which when closed become a breeding ground for disease-carrying mosquitoes, and understand how they might be impacted during extreme water-level events.

As always, key elements of our research would not be possible without philanthropy. Thank you to our donors for their generosity during the past year.

An important grant we received from the National Science Foundation will allow us to continue the Scripps Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) program for another five years. This summer program recruits diverse and talented students from colleges and universities across the country, many of which



have limited marine research opportunities. UC San Diego has made increasing the diversity of its student population a top priority and the SURF program successfully builds a pipeline for underrepresented students into graduate programs and careers in marine science. There are ten former SURF students now making a splash as Scripps graduate students!



I would also like to give special recognition to Walter Munk for his 78th year of service to Scripps. The science icon turned 100 years old on Oct. 19, 2017, and we have spent this year celebrating Walter and the science he helped shape. On behalf of the entire community, I thank Walter for his lifetime of work transforming how the world understands the ocean, and for inspiring our faculty, students, staff, and supporters to be daring.

Thank you, all, for making this a great year.

Margaret Leinen
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