GENESIS: How UCSD Came to Be

By Jack C. Fisher

EA Historian and Edward A. Dickson Professor Emeritus

Part II SIO: The University of California Discovers La Jolla

At the turn of the 20th century, the University of California set up a field station in La Jolla that would soon become the Scripps Institution of Oceanography and decades later the cornerstone of our campus.

It all began when William Ritter, chairman of the Zoology Department at the University of California -- then still on its sole campus in Berkeley -- recognized that it would be a good idea to collect marine life specimens in the ocean waters off San Diego.

Virtually landlocked San Francisco Bay was fed by rivers, while dredging had destroyed the collecting grounds of San Pedro’s harbor. So, with timely assistance from two San Diego physicians, Fred Baker and his wife Charlotte, he set up a small laboratory in 1903 at the boathouse of the Hotel del Coronado.

Ritter got a great deal more help unexpectedly when Baker introduced him to a poker partner who happened to be the millionaire press baron Edward W. Scripps, familiarly known as “E.W.,” Baker cautioned that E.W. “takes no interest in biology” while noting encouragingly that he was supportive of good causes. “I am more interested in this damned organism, ” Scripps told Ritter, but he took a personal liking to the scientist and soon forwarded a check for $500 (worth about $14,000 today). More importantly, he referred Ritter to his sister Ellen, suggesting she might give him another check. Indeed, she did, and many more after that.

Ellen Browning Scripps, senior to E.W. by eighteen years, was a powerful influence on his early life and subsequent career. Unusual for a woman of her time, she had earned, not inherited, a sizable fortune herself, having worked hard and invested systematically in the family newspaper chain. After deciding to move to La Jolla in 1892 at the age of 58 with a net worth estimated at $202,000 (about $5.2 million today), she commissioned a home designed for her needs on a bluff overlooking the ocean. While in residence here, her fortune continued to grow as the newspaper empire became ever more valuable.

Already fascinated with sea life, Ellen Browning Scripps, First Director of SIO, collected samples La Jolla Shores

William E. Ritter
First Director of SIO

Dr. and Mrs. Ritter at home on the top floor of the George H. Scripps Building which, as the first building at the station, doubled as laboratory and residence.

Mark your Calendar!

Emeriti & Retirement Associations Festive Holiday Party
($10 per member $50 for non-members)
Saturday, December 9, 1 - 4 PM
Ida & Cecil Greene Faculty Club
Please send your checks in today.

Professor Barbara F. Walter, GPS

“Why Extremists Thrive in Civil Wars: ISIS and the Rise of Salafi-Jihadism”
Wednesday, January 10, 3:30 - 5:00 PM
Ida & Cecil Greene Faculty Club

Dr. Anita Raj, Tata Professor of Medicine and the Director of UC San Diego’s Center on Gender Equity and Health, “Gender Equity and Health”
Wednesday, February 14, 3:30 - 5:00 PM
Ida & Cecil Greene Faculty Club

UCSD Emeriti Association
she had visited aquariums in Lon-
don and in Berlin. She came to be
especially fascinated by underwa-
ter bioluminescence, the blue-
green emission generated by phy-
toplankton, a phenomenon she
called "soft liquid fire." So it didn’t
take much for Professor Ritter to
capture the interest of "Miss Ellen:" She admired his conviction that a
maritime station (thus called
"water unsullied cove," on a site near today’s La Jolla
Association in La Jolla. Operations were
established the Marine Biological Asso-
ciation in La Jolla. Operations were
transferred to a cottage, dubbed
"Miramar," the Scripps family’s 600-
acre estate overlooking Mesa Res.
(Because automobile engines in the
1920s delivered only 20-30 horse-
power and a carburetor received
fuel by gravity feed, drivers were
often forced to ascend the grade in
reverse.)

Temporary structures served as
the association’s laboratories while
plans were drawn up for a perma-
nent facility. A number of cottages
were built to house scientists and in
later decades, graduate students.
The first permanent building, de-
signed by the noted San Diego archi-
tect Irving Gill, was named in honor
of George Scripps. Now referred to as
the "Old Scripps Building," its of-
fices and updated laboratories re-
main in full use.

Ellen encouraged Ritter to move
to La Jolla, offering to add $100,000
to the endowment plus another
$150,000 on condition that Ritter
agree to continue serving as scien-
tific director. In addition, she offered
land, structures, a library, and a pub-
lic aquarium with combined value of
$300,000 to the university. On July
12, 1912, President Wheeler re-
turned to accept these donations on
behalf of the Regents and to design-
ate the facility as the Scripps Insti-
tution for Biological Research, later
renamed the Scripps Institution of
Oceanography.

In 1915, Ellen donated another
$100,000 for construction of a pier
and an expanded aquarium. The
pier, supported by reinforced wood
columns, provided for monitoring
appearance of small species (e.g.,
diving support vessels) and a
constant supply of sea water for la-
boratories and aquaria. Today’s Ellen
Browning Scripps Memorial Pier (1967-88) is a reinforced con-
crete replacement of the first pier,
which was built in 1916 and upgrad-
ed in 1924. (All told, Ellen’s gifts to-
taled $421,500 — about $11 million
in today’s dollars.)

Ellen Browning Scripps
All told, Ellen’s gifts totalled
$421,500 — about $11 million
in today’s dollars.

UCSD Emeriti Association
In Quicksand?
7. What Do You Call Cheese That
Must Be Obeyed?
13. What’s The Difference Be-	ween Roast Beef And Pea Soup?
11. What Do You Get When You
Cross A Snowman With A Vam-
pire? Frostbite.
12. What Lies At The Bottom Of
The Ocean And Twitches? A Nervous Wrench.
15. Why Do Gorillas Have Big
Nostrils? Because They Have Big
Fingers.
6. What Kind Of Coffee Was
Served On The Titanic? Sanka.
7. Why Did Pilgrims’ Pants
Always Fall Down? Because They Wore Their Belt
Buckle On Their Hat.
8. What Do You Call Santa’s Help-
ers? Subordinate Clauses.
9. What Do You Call Four Bullfight-
ers In Quicksand? Quattro Sino.
5. How Do Eskimos Get FromSit-
ting On The Ice too Long? Polaroids.
4. How Do You Get Holy Water?
You Boil The Hell Out Of It!
3. How Do Crazy People Go
2. How Do You Catch A Tame
Rabbit? Tame Way.
1. How Do You Catch A Unique
Rabbit? Unique Up On It.
Q and A
(Thanks to Manny Rotenberg)

By Sandy Lakoff
Just curious…
Now that Xi Jinping has given
himself even more power and ele-
vated his Thought to the level of
Mao’s, will his Chinese subjects
start thinking of him as Xi Who
Must Be Obeyed?

*"Q and A"

10. What Do You Get From a
Pampered Cow? Spoiled Milk.
11. What Do You Get When You
Cross A Snowman With A Vam-
pire? Frostbite.
12. What Lies At The Bottom Of
The Ocean And Twitches? A Nervous Wrench.
15. Why Do Gorillas Have Big
Nostrils? Because They Have Big
Fingers.
6. What Kind Of Coffee Was
Served On The Titanic? Sanka.
7. Why Did Pilgrims’ Pants
Always Fall Down? Because They Wore Their Belt
Buckle On Their Hat.
8. What Do You Call Santa’s Help-
ers? Subordinate Clauses.
9. What Do You Call Four Bullfight-
ers In Quicksand? Quattro Sino.

UCSD Emeriti Association

Edward Wyllis (E.W.) Scripps
Photograph courtesy of Mrs. Harry L. Smithton
The E. W. Scripps made the first of the
Institution’s long expeditions

UCSD Emeriti Association
For Whom Should our Next College Be Named? Here’s an Idea.

By Sandy Lakoff

“What is in a name?” Shakespeare famously observed, “that which we call a rose / By any other word would smell as sweet.” True enough, though “butterfly” and “papillon” are surely more evocative of those delicate and colorful creatures than “schemterling,” as they are called in German. And some personal names, as H.L. Mencken discovered, in his memorable account of American names, can be downright embarrassing to be known by, like “Positive Wassertman Jones.”

In days of yore, universities and colleges were named either for noble personages or saints. Democracy changed all that. In “New-York” King’s College became Columbia (though William and Mary remained unreformed, in tradition-obsessed Virginia). Harvard and Yale were named for two testators, one a clergyman, the other a locksmith. Ever since, American academic buildings, programs, and whole schools (like Stanford, Rockefeller, and Carnegie-Mellon) have also been named for donors, while others designate people of distinction.

Lately, some names chosen in the latter category have suffered from second thoughts. Calhoun College at Yale was renamed when it was pointed out that John C. defended slavery. Although Washington and Lee survives so far, San Diego dropped the name of the Confederate half of that duo from an elementary school. And Amherst changed the name of its mascot from Lord Jeff to Mammoth after it was brought to attention that the eponymous hero for whom the town and then the school was named had deliberately given small-pox infected blankets to the natives during the French and Indian Wars.

When I taught briefly at the fledgling State University of New York campus at Stony Brook on Long Island, I suggested the residential halls be named for distinguished New Yorkers. I had the pleasure of drawing up the list of names for these new colleges. It included such worthies as Othmar Amann (the engineer who designed the George Washington and other bridges); the anthropologist Ruth Benedict; Frederick Douglass; Margaret Sanger; Ar-turo Toscanini; and Walt Whitman. (The one named for Judge Learned Hand has been renamed at student insistence for Rod Serling whose TV series “The Twilight Zone” they grew up watching. Don’t ask why; the reason they gave is not fit to print.) This leads me to UCSD (which was to be UCLA) until the founders came to their political senses. I love the fact that the road leading to campus is named Gilman Drive, for Daniel Colt Gilman, the president of both Johns Hopkins and the University of California who more than any other educator created the modern American postgraduate/research university. Our buildings and rooms honor donors as well as faculty pioneers and chancellors (Urey, Sverdrup, Munk, Nierenberg, Eckart, Scholander, Yorke, Galbraith, Solis, Mandler, Atkinson et al.). Our undergraduate colleges are all named for people who warrant admiration on one ground or another: Roger Revelle, John Muir, Earl Warren, Thurgood Marshall, and Eleanor Roosevelt. So far, very good indeed. But this time, I have proposed to Chancellor Khosla (who presides over the naming process) that we consider a different sort of name for one of our new colleges. It would be called Anne Frank College to memorialize a young girl who has come to symbolize the innocence of youth cruelly crushed by forces of evil. In her case it was the blind hatred that led to the murder of well over a million children. Bigoted societies continue to deny equal opportunity, and too many of the world’s young people also suffer from terrorism and civil war, abysmal poverty, the struggle between the grip of money and power, and ghettos, as well as from child abuse and child-trafficking.

Anne’s memory is still very much alive, more than seven decades after her untimely death. The Diary of Anne Frank has become a classic widely read by teen-agers in some 60 languages. She is especially admired for her refusal to succumb to bitterness and despair. As she wrote, in an oft-quoted passage: “In spite of every thing, I still believe in the essential goodness of human beings.” UNESCO, in cooperation with the government of the Netherlands and the Anne Frank House of Amsterdam, is currently presenting an exhibition entitled "Let Solis, Mandler, Atkinson et al.) from an elementary school. And much more to come.

From then on, a series of notable developments shaped the rise of SIO and the future of higher education in San Diego – none more important than the advent of Roger Revelle. In 1929, as a newly minted Pomona College geologist, Revelle redirected the focus of his studies from mountains to oceans because of his acrophobia. In 1930, he fell for and married Ellen Scripps Clark who happened to be Ellen’s grandniece. In 1931 Revelle completed a UC fellowship and came to La Jolla for graduate study in oceanography. In 1937 he was invited to join the SIO faculty after successfully defending his doctoral thesis, a chemical study of sea floor samples leading to exploration of ocean bottoms for natural resources. While serving as a visiting scientist on a submarine tender exploring waters off Alaska, Revelle realized that the U.S. Navy would have a keen interest in the science of oceanography in the event of war. When the military draft was established, Revelle enlisted and secured a commission as Lieutenant J.G. in the Naval Reserve. During World War II he was assigned to the Navy’s Bureau of Ships in Washington, D.C., where he served as head of the Geophysics Branch of the Office of Naval Research, responsible for “taking SIO to sea,” emphasizing the importance of direct study of the oceans rather than keeping it a shore station.

A book completed by Sverdrup after joining SIO and described by a colleague as “four pounds and all muscle,” confirmed his international authority in the emerging field of marine sciences. Released in 1942, The Oceans: Their Physics, Chemistry, and General Biology was distributed to a limited American and Canadian audience because of the strategic information it contained. Only after the war was his book made available to a worldwide audience.

As war loomed, “objects of inquiry suddenly shifted from U.S. Coastal marine biology to a Ritter to matters of underwater sound and target detection,” as Robert Knox, former SIO Director of Fleet Operations, has noted. Because the ocean is opaque to light and transparent to sound, SIO scientists focused on military applications of high frequency sound waves, leading to the development of SOnar Navigation And Ranging (SONAR). For acoustics experts assembled from other universities — and also from Hollywood sound studios — at the Navy Radio and Sound Laboratory in Point Loma, anne Frank lived in today’s dollars.)

From then on, a series of notable developments shaped the rise of SIO and the future of higher education in San Diego – none more important than the advent of Roger Revelle. In 1929, as a newly minted Pomona College geologist, Revelle redirected the focus of his studies from mountains to oceans because of his acrophobia. In 1930, he fell for and married Ellen Scripps Clark who happened to be Ellen’s grandniece. In 1931 Revelle completed a UC fellowship and came to La Jolla for graduate study in oceanography. In 1937 he was invited to join the SIO faculty after successfully defending his doctoral thesis, a chemical study of sea floor samples leading to exploration of ocean bottoms for natural resources. While serving as a visiting scientist on a submarine tender exploring waters off Alaska, Revelle realized that the U.S. Navy would have a keen interest in the science of oceanography in the event of war. When the military draft was established, Revelle enlisted and secured a commission as Lieutenant J.G. in the Naval Reserve. During World War II he was assigned to the Navy’s Bureau of Ships in Washington, D.C., where he served as head of the Geophysics Branch of the Office of Naval Research, responsible for “taking SIO to sea,” emphasizing the importance of direct study of the oceans rather than keeping it a shore station.

A book completed by Sverdrup after joining SIO and described by a colleague as “four pounds and all muscle,” confirmed his international authority in the emerging field of marine sciences. Released in 1942, The Oceans: Their Physics, Chemistry, and General Biology was distributed to a limited American and Canadian audience because of the strategic information it contained. Only after the war was his book made available to a worldwide audience.

As war loomed, “objects of inquiry suddenly shifted from U.S. Coastal marine biology to a Ritter to matters of underwater sound and target detection,” as Robert Knox, former SIO Director of Fleet Operations, has noted. Because the ocean is opaque to light and transparent to sound, SIO scientists focused on military applications of high frequency sound waves, leading to the development of SOnar Navigation And Ranging (SONAR). For acoustics experts assembled from other universities — and also from Hollywood sound studios — at the Navy Radio and Sound Laboratory in Point Loma,
the oceans gradually revealed the true nature of their false bottoms, “snapping shrimp” beds, and other sound phenomena that submarines could hide behind. SONAR became the accepted technology for enemy target identification and destruction. Other contributions included better smoke screens for shielding fleets from aerial attack, improved search and rescue protocols based on studies of life rafts adrift in shifting winds and currents, and navigational charts imprinted on water-resistant handkerchiefs. These lifesaving efforts were representative products of the University’s Division of War Research (UCDWR), continuing post-war as the jointly operated Marine Physical Laboratory.

Also important to the military were conditions on beaches selected for amphibious operations, a challenge that drew the interest of Sverdrup and the other was Walter Munk, his Austria-born graduate student. A recently graduated Cal Tech geophysicist studying at SIO, Munk learned that the Army was less troubled by the Navy’s security concerns over foreigners and invited him to share his ocean knowledge with its Air Corps Weather Directorate in Washington, D.C. Informed of plans for an invasion of North Africa, he observed practice landings on a North Carolina beach, where he realized that amphibious operations badly needed help from forecasts of likely shore conditions. Sverdrup, in the meantime, had been summoned to Washington to assist Norway’s diplomats-in-exile. Munk and Sverdrup worked together, first in the capital and later in La Jolla, to make wave calculations that allowed for better understanding of surf conditions. Consecutive teams of Army and Navy meteorologists traveled to SIO for six-week periods to learn the principles of “sea, swell, and surf” forecasting. Their subsequent contributions were unprecedented and critical to operations in both the Atlantic and the Pacific. The now historic twenty-four-hour delay of D-Day was based on a surf forecast from one of the SIO-trained teams, sparing the lives of thousands who might otherwise have drowned in the heavy seas off the Normandy coast. In this way, as SIO geologist Douglas Imman, a Marine veteran himself, has pointed out, “SIO helped win World War II.”

War’s end brought with it a sudden deceleration of San Diego’s industrial momentum to 10% of peak wartime production, prompting someone to brand the city a “broken down boomtown.” Workers at Solar Aircraft, today’s Solar Turbines, were making stainless steel caskets instead of airplane components. Corporate visionaries, fearing a contraction of the region’s manufacturing capacity or even worse, a recession of the severity that gripped the nation after the First World War, envisioned a commitment to nuclear innovation as an economic booster for San Diego.

In step with this strategy was John Hopkins, wartime CEO of the Electric Boat Company, who was assembling component divisions for General Dynamics, an emerging Cold War conglomerate. One of them was San Diego’s Convair; another was General Atomics, a brand new $10-million applied research facility arising on city land just east of former Camp Callan.

What happened next for San Diego was a University of California campus placed as close as possible to General Atomics.

That’s where Revelle again had a major impact. Returning to La Jolla in 1948 from his naval duties in Washington, Revelle brought with him an expanded vision for SIO, an institution he left behind with one research vessel, three permanent buildings, and a staff of twenty-six, but on return found with four ships, 250 faculty and staff, and an operating budget in excess of $1 million. The next decade was characterized by landmark expeditions, entirely fitting for Revelle -- who had long venerated Por­tuguese Prince Henry the Naviga­tor and taken note of the south­eastern continental placements of Lisbon and San Diego. The institu­tion’s fleet was replaced, not with naval vessels destined for moth­balled refitted for ocean research. The 1950 Mid-Pac Expedition made national news when its sci­entists announced that the Pacific Ocean floor was mountainous and not flat like a desert, young in planetary time instead of old, and expanding rather than contracting -- all findings consistent with the new science of plate tectonics.

Revelle became SIO’s Acting Direc­tor in 1950 and Director in 1951, but his dreams extended beyond ocean discovery; they included a graduate school for scientists and engineers, in sync with San Diego’s burgeoning nuclear industry.

On a more pragmatic level, San Diego’s mayor and City Council had ideas of their own and knew the city held a key asset: an abundance of land. The 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo that transformed Mexico’s Alta California into a territory and later a state had left San Diego in possession of historic “pueblo lands.” This inheritance gave the city an uncommon control of its territory, permitting disposition of real estate for railroads and highways, for the navy, for schools and universities, and for promising commercial ventures.

The time proved right for estab­lishing a major research univer­sity in San Diego – though the process was to prove more com­plicated than anyone could have imagined at first.

This is the second installment of an edited, much-abreviated histo­ry based on extensive research in primary sources. The full version (including a wealth of footnotes) is available online at http://library.ucsd.edu/ dc/object/bb4371434f -- NEXT: Assem­bling the Land.

Our sincere thanks to Dr. Robert Knox, for his assistance in searching for photographs to accompany this article.
Walter Munk (left) with Harald Sverdrup in the George H. Scripps Memorial Marine Laboratory.

Happy 100th Birthday, Walter!

People should treat the oceans like we do anything else that we care about - with consideration, with care, and affection. That's it. For that we must educate.

- Walter Munk —

The time proved right for establishing a major research university in San Diego — though the process was to prove more complicated than anyone could have imagined at first.

This is the second installment of an edited, much-abbreviated history based on extensive research in primary sources. The full version (including a wealth of footnotes) is available online at http://library.ucsd.edu/dc/object/bb4371434f. NEXT: Assembling the Land.

Our sincere thanks to Dr. Robert Knox, for his assistance in searching for photographs to accompany this article.

Emeriti Association Book Club

Monday, Nov. 27, 2017 at 11:30 AM — 1:00 PM

at the Ida & Cecil Green Faculty Club Small Conference Room

Please register at https://hrweb.ucsd.edu/ea/ or call (858) 534-4724, if you have no online access.

Join other Emeriti book enthusiasts as they explore the lives of two extraordinary men. Thomas Rick's novel portrays a dual biography of Winston Churchill and George Orwell, who preserved democracy from the threats of authoritarianism, from the left and right alike. Taken together, in Ricks' masterful hands, their lives are a celebration of the human spirit.

Join us as we meet to discuss the novel. The time proved right for establishing a major research university in San Diego — though the process was to prove more complicated than anyone could have imagined at first. This is the second installment of an edited, much-abbreviated history based on extensive research in primary sources. The full version (including a wealth of footnotes) is available online at http://library.ucsd.edu/dc/object/bb4371434f. NEXT: Assembling the Land.

Our sincere thanks to Dr. Robert Knox, for his assistance in searching for photographs to accompany this article.
By Sandy Lakoff

“Who’s in charge?” Shakespeare famously observed, “that which we call a rose / By any other word would smell as sweet.” True enough, though “butterfly” and “papillon” are surely more evocative of those delicate and colorful creatures than “schmetterling,” as they are called in German. And some personal names, as H.L. Mencken discovered, in his memorable account of American names, can be downright embarrassing to be known by, like “Positiv Wasser-man Jones.”

In days of yore, universities and colleges were named either for noble personages or saints. Democracy changed all that. In “New-York” King’s College became Columbia (though William and Mary remained unreformed, in tradition-obsessed Virginia). Harvard and Yale were named for two testators, one a clergyman, the other a locksmith. Ever since, American academic buildings, programs, and whole schools (like Stanford, Rockefeller, and Carnegie-Mellon) have also been named for donors, while others designate people of distinction.

Lately, some names chosen in the latter category have suffered from second thoughts. Calhoun College at Yale was renamed for two testators, one a clergyman, the other a locksmith. Ever since, American academic buildings, programs, and whole schools (like Stanford, Rockefeller, and Carnegie-Mellon) have also been named for donors, while others designate people of distinction.

For Whom Should Our Next College Be Named? Here’s an Idea.

Anne Frank

By Sandy Lakoff

“Who’s in charge?” Shakespeare famously observed, “that which we call a rose / By any other word would smell as sweet.” True enough, though “butterfly” and “papillon” are surely more evocative of those delicate and colorful creatures than “schmetterling,” as they are called in German. And some personal names, as H.L. Mencken discovered, in his memorable account of American names, can be downright embarrassing to be known by, like “Positiv Wasser-man Jones.”

In days of yore, universities and colleges were named either for noble personages or saints. Democracy changed all that. In “New-York” King’s College became Columbia (though William and Mary remained unreformed, in tradition-obsessed Virginia). Harvard and Yale were named for two testators, one a clergyman, the other a locksmith. Ever since, American academic buildings, programs, and whole schools (like Stanford, Rockefeller, and Carnegie-Mellon) have also been named for donors, while others designate people of distinction.

Lately, some names chosen in the latter category have suffered from second thoughts. Calhoun College at Yale was renamed for two testators, one a clergyman, the other a locksmith. Ever since, American academic buildings, programs, and whole schools (like Stanford, Rockefeller, and Carnegie-Mellon) have also been named for donors, while others designate people of distinction.

For Whom Should Our Next College Be Named? Here’s an Idea.

Anne Frank

By Sandy Lakoff

“Who’s in charge?” Shakespeare famously observed, “that which we call a rose / By any other word would smell as sweet.” True enough, though “butterfly” and “papillon” are surely more evocative of those delicate and colorful creatures than “schmetterling,” as they are called in German. And some personal names, as H.L. Mencken discovered, in his memorable account of American names, can be downright embarrassing to be known by, like “Positiv Wasser-man Jones.”

In days of yore, universities and colleges were named either for noble personages or saints. Democracy changed all that. In “New-York” King’s College became Columbia (though William and Mary remained unreformed, in tradition-obsessed Virginia). Harvard and Yale were named for two testators, one a clergyman, the other a locksmith. Ever since, American academic buildings, programs, and whole schools (like Stanford, Rockefeller, and Carnegie-Mellon) have also been named for donors, while others designate people of distinction.

Lately, some names chosen in the latter category have suffered from second thoughts. Calhoun College at Yale was renamed for two testators, one a clergyman, the other a locksmith. Ever since, American academic buildings, programs, and whole schools (like Stanford, Rockefeller, and Carnegie-Mellon) have also been named for donors, while others designate people of distinction.

For Whom Should Our Next College Be Named? Here’s an Idea.

Anne Frank

By Sandy Lakoff

“Who’s in charge?” Shakespeare famously observed, “that which we call a rose / By any other word would smell as sweet.” True enough, though “butterfly” and “papillon” are surely more evocative of those delicate and colorful creatures than “schmetterling,” as they are called in German. And some personal names, as H.L. Mencken discovered, in his memorable account of American names, can be downright embarrassing to be known by, like “Positiv Wasser-man Jones.”

In days of yore, universities and colleges were named either for noble personages or saints. Democracy changed all that. In “New-York” King’s College became Columbia (though William and Mary remained unreformed, in tradition-obsessed Virginia). Harvard and Yale were named for two testators, one a clergyman, the other a locksmith. Ever since, American academic buildings, programs, and whole schools (like Stanford, Rockefeller, and Carnegie-Mellon) have also been named for donors, while others designate people of distinction.

Lately, some names chosen in the latter category have suffered from second thoughts. Calhoun College at Yale was renamed for two testators, one a clergyman, the other a locksmith. Ever since, American academic buildings, programs, and whole schools (like Stanford, Rockefeller, and Carnegie-Mellon) have also been named for donors, while others designate people of distinction.
she had visited aquariums in London and in Berlin. She came to be especially fascinated by underwater bioluminescence, the blue-green emission generated by phytoplankton, a phenomenon she called “soft liquid fire.” So it didn’t take much for Professor or Ritter to capture the interest of “Miss Ellen.” She admired his conviction that a study of marine fauna was “a view into the origins of life itself” and decided to visit his Berkeley lab to see for herself how he did his studies. The result was that first check for $1,500.

With the prospect of continued Scripps family support, Ritter, the Bakers, and several friends established the Marine Biological Association in La Jolla. Operations were transferred to a cottage, dubbed “the little green laboratory at the cove,” on a site near today’s La Jolla Cove Bridge Club. Ritter’s studies depended on “water unaltered by urban contamination,” as he put it to Ellen Scripps. So the city agreed to provide a water line, and E.W. commissioned a graded road from the cove to the laboratory – now known as La Jolla Shores Drive. Ellen worried about this another check, for $1,000, to extend that road up the grade beyond the biological station (thus called “biological grade”), then eastward to “Miramar,” the Scripps family’s 600-acre estate overlooking Mesa Verde. (Because automobile engines in the 1920s delivered only 20-to-30 horsepower and a carburetor received fuel by gravity feed, drivers were often forced to ascend the grade in reverse.)

Temporary structures served as the association’s laboratories while plans were drawn up for a permanent facility. A number of cottages were built to house scientists and in later decades, graduate students. The first permanent building, designed by the noted San Diego architect Irving Gill, was named in honor of George Scripps. Now referred to as the “Old Scripps Building,” its offices and updated laboratories remain in full use.

Ellen encouraged Ritter to move to La Jolla, offering to add $100,000 to the endowment plus another $150,000 on condition that Ritter agree to continue serving as scientific director. In addition, she offered land, structures, a library, and a public aquarium with combined value of $300,000 to the university. On July 12, 1912, President Wheeler returned to accept these donations on behalf of the Regents and to designate the facility as the Scripps Institution for Biological Research, later renamed the Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

In 1915, Ellen donated another $100,000 for construction of a pier and an expanded aquarium. The pier, supported by reinforced wood columns, provided for monitoring apparatus, housing of small boats (e.g., diving support vessels) and a constant supply of sea water for laboratories and aquariums. Today’s Ellen Browning Scripps Memorial Pier (1967-88) is a reinforced concrete replacement of the first pier, which was built in 1915 and upgraded in 1924. (All told, Ellen’s gifts totaled $421,500 – about $11 million in today’s dollars.)

Edward Wyllis (E.W.) Scripps
Photograph courtesy of Mrs. Harry L. Smithton

The E. W. Scripps made the first of the Institution’s long expeditions

Ellen Browning Scripps
All told, Ellen’s gifts totaled $421,500 – about $11 million in today’s dollars.

By Sandy Lakoff
Just curious ...

Now that Xi Jinping has given himself even more power and elevated his Thought to the level of Mao’s, will his Chinese subjects start thinking of him as Xi Who Must Be obeyed?*

Q and A
(Thanks to Manny Rotenberg)
2. How Do You Catch a Tame Rabbit? Tame Way.
3. How Do Crazy People Go Through The Forest? They Take The Psycho Path.
4. How Do You Get Holy Water? You Roll The Hell Out Of It!
5. What Do Eskimos Get From Sitk—A Stick.
6. What Do You Call Cheese That Doesn’t work? You Boil The Hell Out Of It!
7. What Do You Call Cheese That Isn’t Yours? Nacho Cheese.
8. What Do You Call Santa’s Helpers? Subordinate Clauses.
9. What Do You Call Four Bullighters In QuickSand? Quattro Sino.

15. Why Do Gorillas Have Big Nostrils? Because They Have Big Fingers.
17. Why Did Pilgrims’ Pants Always Fall Down? Because They Wore Their Belt Buckle On Their Hat.

* The Life Story of Anne Frank, by Evert Maas. The Life Story of Anne Frank, by Evert Maas.
Please Subscribe to ELECTRONIC CHRONICLES.
If you find it convenient to read the Chronicles on line, and you are happy to just receive the link to the electronic copy of the newsletter, please email us at Emeriti@ucsd.edu with the following subject line: SUBSCRIBE TO ELECTRONIC CHRONICLES.
For members who elect to subscribe to the Electronic Chronicles, we thank you for helping us to keep costs down, as well as helping to save a few trees. Archived issues are always available online on the Emeriti website: http://emeriti.ucsd.edu

Mark your Calendar!
Emeriti & Retirement Associations Festive Holiday Party ($10 per member $50 for non-members)
Saturday, December 9, 1 - 4 PM
Ida & Cecil Greene Faculty Club
Please send your checks in today.

Professor Barbara F. Walter, GPS
"Why Extremists Thrive in Civil Wars: ISIS and the Rise of Salafi-Jihadism"
Wednesday, January 10, 3:30 - 5:00 PM
Ida & Cecil Greene Faculty Club

Dr. Anita Raj, Tata Professor of Medicine and the Director of UC San Diego’s Center on Gender Equity and Health, “Gender Equity and Health”
Wednesday, February 14, 3:30 - 5:00 PM
Ida & Cecil Greene Faculty Club

Chronicles
Newsletter of the UCSD Emeriti Association
*
Sandra Lukoff
Suzan Cioffi
Morton Printz
Phyllis Mirsky
Robert Knox
Mark Appelbaum
President
Vice President
Secretary/Treasurer
Past President

November/December 2017 Volume XVII, No. 2

GENESIS: How UCSD Came to Be

By Jack C. Fisher
EA Historian and Edward A.
Dickson Professor Emeritus

Part II. SIO: The University of California Discovers La Jolla
At the turn of the 20th century, the University of California set up a field station in La Jolla that would soon become the Scripps Institution of Oceanography and decades later the cornerstone of four campus.

It all began when William Ritter, chairman of the Zoology Department at the University of California — then still on its sole campus in Berkeley — recognized that it would be a good idea to collect marine life specimens in the ocean waters off San Diego. Virtually landlocked San Francisco Bay was fed by rivers, while dredging had destroyed the collecting grounds of San Pedro’s harbor. So, with timely assistance from two San Diego physicians, Fred Baker and his wife Charlotte he set up a small laboratory in 1903 at the boathouse of the Hotel del Coronado.

Ritter gave a great deal more help unexpectedly when Baker introduced him to a poker partner who happened to be the millionaire press baron Edward W. Scripps, familiarly known as "E.W." Baker cautioned that E.W. "takes no interest in biology" while noting encouragingly that he was supportive of good causes. "I am more interested in this damned human animal than any marine organism," Scripps told Ritter, but he took a personal liking to the scientist and soon forwarded a check for $500 (worth about $14,000 today). More importantly, he referred Ritter to his sister Ellen, suggesting she might give him another check. Indeed, she did, and many more after that.

Ellen Browning Scripps, senior to E.W. by eighteen years, was a woman of her time, she had earned, not inherited, a sizable fortune. She had a great deal more help unexpected when Baker introduced him to a poker partner who happened to be the millionaire press baron Edward W. Scripps, familiarly known as "E.W." Baker cautioned that E.W. "takes no interest in biology" while noting encouragingly that he was supportive of good causes. "I am more interested in this damned human animal than any marine organism," Scripps told Ritter, but he took a personal liking to the scientist and soon forwarded a check for $500 (worth about $14,000 today). More importantly, he referred Ritter to his sister Ellen, suggesting she might give him another check. Indeed, she did, and many more after that.

Ellen Browning Scripps, senior to E.W. by eighteen years, was a woman of her time, she had earned, not inherited, a sizable fortune. She had a great deal more help unexpected when Baker introduced him to a poker partner who happened to be the millionaire press baron Edward W. Scripps, familiarly known as "E.W." Baker cautioned that E.W. "takes no interest in biology" while noting encouragingly that he was supportive of good causes. "I am more interested in this damned human animal than any marine organism," Scripps told Ritter, but he took a personal liking to the scientist and soon forwarded a check for $500 (worth about $14,000 today). More importantly, he referred Ritter to his sister Ellen, suggesting she might give him another check. Indeed, she did, and many more after that.

Ellen Browning Scripps, senior to E.W. by eighteen years, was a woman of her time, she had earned, not inherited, a sizable fortune. She had a great deal more help unexpected when Baker introduced him to a poker partner who happened to be the millionaire press baron Edward W. Scripps, familiarly known as "E.W." Baker cautioned that E.W. "takes no interest in biology" while noting encouragingly that he was supportive of good causes. "I am more interested in this damned human animal than any marine organism," Scripps told Ritter, but he took a personal liking to the scientist and soon forwarded a check for $500 (worth about $14,000 today). More importantly, he referred Ritter to his sister Ellen, suggesting she might give him another check. Indeed, she did, and many more after that.

Ellen Browning Scripps, senior to E.W. by eighteen years, was a woman of her time, she had earned, not inherited, a sizable fortune. She had a great deal more help unexpected when Baker introduced him to a poker partner who happened to be the millionaire press baron Edward W. Scripps, familiarly known as "E.W." Baker cautioned that E.W. "takes no interest in biology" while noting encouragingly that he was supportive of good causes. "I am more interested in this damned human animal than any marine organism," Scripps told Ritter, but he took a personal liking to the scientist and soon forwarded a check for $500 (worth about $14,000 today). More importantly, he referred Ritter to his sister Ellen, suggesting she might give him another check. Indeed, she did, and many more after that.

Ellen Browning Scripps, senior to E.W. by eighteen years, was a woman of her time, she had earned, not inherited, a sizable fortune. She had a great deal more help unexpected when Baker introduced him to a poker partner who happened to be the millionaire press baron Edward W. Scripps, familiarly known as "E.W." Baker cautioned that E.W. "takes no interest in biology" while noting encouragingly that he was supportive of good causes. "I am more interested in this damned human animal than any marine organism," Scripps told Ritter, but he took a personal liking to the scientist and soon forwarded a check for $500 (worth about $14,000 today). More importantly, he referred Ritter to his sister Ellen, suggesting she might give him another check. Indeed, she did, and many more after that.