

# ELLEN'S CIRCLE

## *ELLEN BROWNING SCRIPPS, HER LIFE AND PHILANTHROPY*

Ellen Browning Scripps was born on October 18, 1836 and lived to be 96 years old. She left a lasting legacy through the good works of the many worthy institutions she founded. Terming her the "most beloved woman in Southern California," Time magazine featured a photo of Miss Ellen on its cover in February 1926.

The *Ellen's Circle* at UC San Diego's Scripps Institution of Oceanography is an organization that honors her, the way she would want to be remembered, by continuing her good work. Miss Scripps founded Scripps Institution of Oceanography, Scripps Memorial Hospital, The Scripps Research Institute, and Scripps College. She was a founder of the Bishop's School and provided scholarships for students there. She built the La Jolla Woman's Club, the first La Jolla Library, and the Children's Pool. She purchased and donated Torrey Pines and other lands as public parks. She made significant gifts to the San Diego Zoo, the San Diego Museum of Natural History and the YMCA/YWCA. Her "investments" are paying dividends to all of us in the San Diego region.

*Ellen's Circle* carries on the spirit of her gifts. Ellen Browning Scripps was a great supporter of the Scripps Aquarium, she believed in the value of endowment funds, and she felt that this aquarium was an excellent tool for public education, especially of school children.

*Ellen's Circle* began with the idea to emulate the investment philanthropy of Ellen Browning Scripps. She established an endowment for Scripps Institution of Oceanography that has helped ensure that the institution could survive during times when other sources of funding were scarce. *Ellen's Circle* was founded in 1998 with the goal of building an endowment for the Birch Aquarium that would reach \$100,000 by 2008 and provide support for the Aquarium in perpetuity.

We planned to recruit ten members who would each invest \$1,000 per year for ten years and celebrate Miss Scripps's birthday every October with a luncheon at the Aquarium. As of October 2007, there were twenty-one members and the endowment exceeded \$250,000; thanks in part to a large bequest from the estate of Pearl Colette Black. Many current members also have included the Aquarium in their estate plans

Endowments at the University of California double about every seven years due to careful investment by the UC Regents. During the past ten years, UC endowment fund earnings averaged 10.17%.