

Trustee



William H. Scripps

William 'Bill' Scripps is a person who appears to seamlessly mesh his passions with his work and his service to his community. Representing the fourth generation of the Scripps family's civic legacy in San Diego, Bill has formed very strategic and productive partnerships with people across the UC San Diego and Scripps Institution of Oceanography campuses over more than a quarter century. He is a deeply rooted San Diegan who, like many, transplanted himself here.

"I grew up in the east, in Connecticut," says Bill, "and we moved to Nevada when I was 14. We used to come to San Diego to visit my grandmother, so when it came time to pick a college I applied to all three schools here." Bill attended University of San Diego, and of course gravitated to the beach, where he met his wife, Kathy, on a sand volleyball court. Their children, Willie and Shelby have chosen a higher altitude for their college experience – both attend the University of Colorado at Boulder.

In the 1980s, curious about the institution that was founded largely by great-grandfather E.W. Scripps and his sister Ellen, Bill became involved with Scripps Institution of Oceanography by, among other things, helping to form a Director's Cabinet to offer community and industry input. He was instrumental in garnering support to build the Robert Payne Scripps Forum conference center, honoring the contributions of his grandfather. It was an effort that many Scripps family members supported.

In the 1990s, Bill served his alma mater for several years on the University of San Diego Athletics Committee. "I wasn't a student-athlete myself, but I always appreciated collegiate sports, and I value what athletics does for the student." In 2005, he turned to UC San Diego where he and a handful of college sports advocates formed an advisory board for Triton Athletics, on which he continues to serve. "UCSD's program has had great success but little visibility. I thought I could be of some service."

That service, among other accomplishments, has resulted in major renovations to the Triton Baseball facility, a project that tapped into Bill's experience. "When I was a kid, I had an affinity for baseball, so in 1990, I formed the Scripps Baseball Group and operated a minor league baseball team in Augusta, Georgia, a farm team for the Pittsburg Pirates. We got a stadium built, and the team's doing well." Bill sold the team in 1999.

"I'm still a fan of baseball, but at UC San Diego we're getting more diversified in our focus, attending more of the other sports. Athletics can build team leaders who go on to lead in life, and I appreciate that."

In 2008 Bill founded the Scripps Foundation for Science and The Environment. His family's concerns for the global environment and climate change has been tapped by the Rady School

of Management's Sustainability Solutions Institute, and specifically for the Greenovation Forum, which provides startup funding for the Triton Greenovation Network.

Now in his second term on the UC San Diego Foundation, Bill says, "I'm looking forward to getting more involved and getting to know more about the university. It never ceases to amaze me how much is going on at UCSD."