2010 Alumni Achievement Award
Christiane Covington ’75 (awarded posthumously)

As a founder of The Bishop’s School, Ellen Browning Scripps sought to instill in her students creativity, curiosity, wonderment, passion and spirituality. Christiane Claire Covington ’75 was one of those exceptional individuals whose persona and life’s work completely embodied these traits. An accomplished filmmaker and artist, Christiane’s talent was in the process of being fully realized when her life was cut tragically short by a snorkeling accident in 2009. Yet the legacy she has left behind is one that will continue to impact others for years to come.

From a young age, Christiane’s passion and drive were readily apparent. While at Bishops, she excelled both academically and in practical endeavors. Heavily involved in drama club, choir and varsity swimming, Christiane was able to explore and grow her many interests. She did not, however, limit herself to the extracurricular activities that Bishop’s had to offer. Instead, Christiane looked beyond the La Jolla campus to Sea World, where she was able to combine her love of swimming with her love for dolphins to become their first female dolphin trainer. This was quite a coup for a determined 16-year-old girl from La Jolla. Christiane worked with, learned from, and bonded with the dolphins until she left for college.

While at San Diego State University, Christiane pursued a degree in drama and theater writing. Curiously, she was lead to the field of storytelling through her work and experiences with the dolphins. Many of those experiences found their way into her award winning college plays and scripts. One of those scripts was the first draft of what would later become the embodiment of her life and life’s work, “The Dolphin Girl.”

Christiane continued to pursue her chosen craft by earning a master’s degree from the University of California, Los Angeles, and then an MFA in Screenwriting from the prestigious American Film Institute (AFI). Upon graduating from AFI, Christiane joined the Los Angeles IATSE Union 871 and became a script supervisor. In the roll of script supervisor, Christiane was involved with over 28 Hollywood feature films and many television programs. She also directed and produced numerous plays and independent films.

In 2000, Christiane co-founded Legacy Productions, whose ongoing vision is to produce and create “healing media” in all its varied forms. Through their films, documentaries, theater productions, and personal growth events, Legacy Productions continues Christiane’s vision. She believed that bringing positive change to humanity could be achieved by combining an artist’s creativity with the varied forms of multi-media to remind the viewer of the greater good: commitment, care and responsibility. This belief that creative arts can help make a
difference in the world was a driving force behind Christiane’s directorial debut Legacies in 2001. The premiere for the short film was held at the San Diego Museum of Contemporary Art, La Jolla.

Christiane’s career as a script supervisor continued on an upward trajectory and included her involvement in many successful box office films from 2008 through 2009, such as My Son, My Son, What Have Ye Done, Conversations with Other Women, To Save a Life, and the 2010 film Happiness Runs. Yet Christiane, did not limit her time, energies and talents to film. She also was a gifted photographer and singer/songwriter, who recorded a few songs.

At the time of her death, Christiane was finalizing the script of her life’s work “The Dolphin Girl.” She hoped to produce and direct it in the coming year. As a tribute to her and her legacy, her brother, along with friends and family, are working to finish the script and have it produced into a feature film.