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News Release

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BRANCH NAMED USD DEAN OF GRADUATE AND CONTINUING EDUCATION

Dr. Eren Branch has been appointed to the position of Dean of Graduate and Continuing Education at the University of San Diego effective September 1, 1991.

Branch, currently Associate Dean of Graduate and Continuing Education, will succeed Dr. Ray Brandes, who has been Dean for the past 18 years. As previously announced, Brandes is stepping down from his administrative role to rejoin the faculty as Professor of History. He also will continue as University Archivist.

Eren Hostetter Branch is a native San Diegan who grew up in Rome, Italy, and returned to San Diego for her senior year of high school and graduation at La Jolla High School. Her late stepfather was noted San Diego surgeon John Steelquist.

Branch graduated from Bryn Mawr College magna cum laude and went on to Stanford University, where she obtained an M.A. in English Literature and a Ph.D. in English and Comparative Literature.

Before joining USD in 1985 as Associate Dean of Graduate and Continuing Education and Assistant Professor of English, Branch spent two years as a counselor at the Fulbright Commission in Stockholm and a guest researcher at Centrum for Kvinnliga

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Forskare och Kvinnoforskning (Center for Women Scholars and Research on Women) at Uppsala University in Uppsala, Sweden. From 1978 to 1982, she was Adjunct Instructor of English and Comparative Literature at the University of Cincinnati.

Branch's research findings on the works of Boccaccio have been widely published. Fluent in five languages, she is a member of the American Association for Higher Education, the American Literary Translators Association, the Modern Language Association, the Renaissance Society of America, and other professional organizations.

Asked about her plans for the graduate area, Branch said, "I hope, in particular, to bring more ethnic and racial diversity to our graduate student population and to strengthen the international elements of our graduate programs."

Branch's appointment as Dean of Graduate and Continuing Education brings the number of women deans at USD to four (of eight deanships). Other women deans at USD are: Janet Rodgers, Dean of the School of Nursing; Kristine Strachan, Dean of the School of Law; and Cynthia Villis, Dean of Academic Services.

Branch's husband, Watson Branch, teaches English at The Bishop's School in La Jolla. Their two sons, Adam and Jordan, are students at Bishop's.

Note to editors: For a photograph of Branch, please contact Kate Callen, 260-4682.