

## Chair's Column

Dear Students, Alumni, and Friends of the USD History Department:

Welcome to the 2017/18 school year!

After spending the summer writing and going on research trips, our talented and dedicated faculty are back in the classroom and eager to work with new and returning students. There are some great classes this fall: Rome in Literature and Film, the Vietnam Wars, Role-Playing the Renaissance, the Medieval World, African American History, US History of Food, among others. But regardless of topic, our goal is to help help students master important skills (writing, research, and critical thinking) that will serve them for the rest of their lives.

It was terrific seeing many of you last May at Professor Engstrand's retirement party. Professor Engstrand touched the lives of thousands of USD students. Last spring alums returned the favor by celebrating Dr. Engstrand's extraordinary career and contributing to the newly-established Iris Engstrand Scholarship Fund. I am happy to report that USD alums and members of the San Diego community were so generous that the department can immediately start giving Engstrand Scholarships to deserving history students. This is an extraordinary achievement, and we are very happy to honor Iris this way.



In other news, the department is happy to welcome Dr. Channon Miller, our new postdoc. Dr. Miller comes to us from Boston University, where she earned her Ph.D. She will be teaching classes on African American history, African American Women's History, and U.S. Women's History. To learn more about Dr. Miller, see the article below!

Last May, Professor Kenneth Serbin had an audience with Pope Francis, who met with members of the Huntington's Disease Community at the Vatican. Dr. Serbin will talk about this extraordinary event at a talk on Sept 28 called "Hidden No More": Pope Francis' Historic Audience with the Huntington's Disease Community. The event will take place at 4:00 pm in Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice, EF.

In addition to Dr. Serbin's talk about his meeting with the Pope, the department is hosting other exciting events this fall. UCLA historian Joan Johnson will talk about her new book *Funding Feminism: Monied Women, Philanthropy, and the Women's Movement, 1870-1967*. This will take place on October 9, 2017 from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m in KIPJ room H. Food historian Paul Freedman, Chester D. Tripp Professor of History and Chair of the History of Science Program at Yale University, will be speaking on "Herring and Lamprey: Fish and Social Status in Medieval Dining" on Monday, October 23rd at 6pm in Warren Auditorium. On November 9, Dr. Miller will give a talk in our Brown Bag Research Talk series. This will be between 12:30-1:30 in IPJ. These events are open to everyone, so alums, please don't hesitate to come to campus for these talks. We would love to see you.

Whether you are a student, alum, or friend of the department, I encourage you to "like" the [history department Facebook Page](#). Here you can stay abreast of department events.

I wish you a healthy, happy, and productive semester!

[Colin Fisher, Professor and Chair of the Department of History](#)

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## Upcoming Events

### **THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28**

['Hidden No More': Pope Francis' Historic Audience with the Huntington's Disease Community](#)

Kenneth P. Serbin, PhD

4 p.m., KIPJ Conference Room E/F

### **MONDAY, OCTOBER 9**

[Funding Feminism Lecture](#)

Joan Marie Johnson, PhD

4 p.m. - 5 p.m., KIPJ Conference Room H

### **MONDAY, OCTOBER 23**

Herring and Lamprey: Fish and Social Status in Medieval Dining

Paul Freedman, Chester D. Tripp Professor of the History of Science at Yale University

6 p.m., Warren Auditorium

### **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26**

History Department Speaker

Kyle Longley

12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m., KIPJ 219

### **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9**

Brown Bag Research Talk

Channon S. Miller, PhD

12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m., KIPJ Conference Room H

### **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30**

History Department Lunch and Learn

Come and listen to fellow History Students present research on their Senior Thesis.

12:30 p.m. - 2 p.m., KIPJ Room 253 (the map room)

## Interested in History? Join the History Club!!!

Everyone is welcome. We usually plan one field trip and one undergraduate research presentation per semester. Past field trips have included the Command Museum at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot and the Japanese Friendship Garden in Balboa Park. Past presentations have included topics such as mass incarceration, the role of Motown in Civil Rights, the demonization of Yoko Ono, and the importance of aerial combat in World War II. For further information, contact Dr. Kathryn Statler at [kstatler@sandiego.edu](mailto:kstatler@sandiego.edu).

## Phi Alpha Theta (National History Honor Society)

If you have 12 units of History, a 3.0 overall GPA and a 3.3 in History, you are eligible to join Phi Alpha Theta. You do not have to be a History major to join and 3 units of AP credit can be applied to the 12 units. For a lifetime membership in Phi Alpha Theta, you pay a one-time fee of \$60.00. Benefits include a one year subscription to the Historian (the society's journal focusing on cutting-edge historical research), invitations to all Phi Alpha Theta sponsored events at USD and the Spring Phi Alpha Theta initiation and lunch, opportunities to participate in and win prizes at regional conferences, and honor cords at graduation. For further information, contact Dr. Kathryn Statler at [kstatler@sandiego.edu](mailto:kstatler@sandiego.edu).

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**"A walk about Paris will provide lessons in history, beauty, and in the point of Life" - Thomas Jefferson**

by [Kathryn Statler](#)



*The class at Suresnes Cemetery, one of the 12 permanent American cemeteries in France*

For three weeks this July I had the privilege of working with nine dedicated USD students, from various majors and stages in college. The class I taught, "Americans in Paris, through War and Peace" explored the impact of Americans in Paris (and the impact of Paris on Americans) from Benjamin Franklin's 1775 arrival in Paris to our journey in 2017. We examined how the Franco-American alliance formed and solidified as well as how it was challenged and represented over the centuries during times of war and peace. In particular we used site visits (a modified scavenger hunt) to understand what it means to be an American in Paris, beginning with the search for the plaque commemorating the 1783 Paris Peace Treaty that secured American independence. We also found no fewer than seven Statues of Liberty that had served as models for the one given to the United States by France in 1886. We then visited the gleaming half scale Arc de Triomphe a little outside of Paris proper, known as the Lafayette Escadrille Monument, which honors the efforts of Americans flying for France before the official U.S. entry into the war on April 6, 1917. Students also explored the Ritz, trying to reconcile the current decadence with the hotel as a hotbed for resistance against the Nazis during World War II, and a number of us explored the Pointe de Hoc, Omaha Beach and the Coleville-sur-Mer American Cemetery in Normandy, marveling at American soldiers' courage, and sacrifice, during World War II. Ultimately, we analyzed many symbols, statues, monuments, cafes, stores, and streets that represent over 200 years of Franco-American history. We left pondering how Jefferson would feel today, being just one of the 32 million visitors who made their way to Paris this year



*Last night at the Grand Mosque Restaurant, part of the Grand Mosque in Paris, which was built in the 1920s to recognize the sacrifice of France's primarily Muslim North African colonies during World War I*

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## Alumni Spotlight: Alex Bethke, '04



*Alex Bethke working this year's fleet week event*

Alex Bethke ('04) recently spoke to Dr. Kathryn Statler's History 495W class about his current position with the Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) and how he came to be a historian for the Navy. After graduating from USD, Alex received an M.A. in History from Arizona State University's Public History Program. After graduating from ASU in 2007, Alex worked briefly as a Preservation Planner for the Delaware County Planning Department just outside Philadelphia. In 2008, he was hired by NAVFAC Southwest as a historian working within its regional Cultural Resources Program. Alex now leads that department, balancing the Navy's mission with federal historic preservation laws and regulations. In total, this program and its seven archaeologists and historians are responsible for managing 1.6 million acres containing 11,000+ known archaeological sites and 430+ historic buildings. Alex's experiences include working with cultural resource firms on various contracts, conducting design review for construction projects throughout the southwest and especially for Naval Base Coronado, as well as setting and implementing regional policies and funding allocations.

While each project is unique and interesting as an opportunity to expose the public to history, Alex's favorite project was a recent pilot project to digitally record 200 meters of prehistoric petroglyphs at China Lake's Coso Rock Art National Historic Landmark. Using photogrammetry, archaeologists and graphics designers created a virtual model of the canyon with geospatial millimeter accuracy. The project resulted in a deliverable that would be utilized by installation resource managers as well as academic researchers and the general public alike. A few samples of these projects can be seen at: <https://chrome.google.com/webstore/detail/little-petroglyph-canyon/ghkilankeobbhjelghkaimihnbckbk> and <https://sketchfab.com/paleowest>.

Alex's favorite historical figure is Teddy Roosevelt. Certainly a man before his time, Roosevelt was a true Renaissance man who achieved so many different things over the course of his life, always with a can-do attitude and an unwillingness to fail ... really the epitome of the American spirit.

**Alumni, update your contact information [here](#).**

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## History Department Welcomes Dr. Channon Miller!

by [Dr. Ryan Abrecht](#)



This semester, the History Department is delighted to welcome a new faculty member, Dr. Channon Miller. Dr. Miller joins the USD community as a Diversity Post-Doctoral Fellow. A native of Hartford, Connecticut, she graduated from Trinity College with a B.A. in American Studies in 2011 and earned her PhD in American Studies from Boston University in 2017. Her teaching and research interests lie in the fields of African American History, African American Women's History, African American Studies, and Women's and Gender Studies.

Dr. Miller's scholarly research revolves around a commitment to documenting and excavating traditions of black women's resistance. In her work, she traces how race, gender, and class have shaped black women's realities across time, as well as how black women have imagined and created alternative worlds. Dr. Miller writes, "My home city of Hartford is a place that I have long seen through the eyes of black women. Its landscape has been carved by their visions of freedom and justice, and this continuously inspires and motivates

my work. Black women of the past and present have stories to tell that have long been silenced or misunderstood. To borrow a phrase from the 19<sup>th</sup> century African American woman abolitionist and writer Frances E. Harper, I conceive of my work as part of an ongoing project of 'lifting the shadows.'" Her current research project pinpoints the late 20<sup>th</sup> century as the dawn of a modern strategy of resistance that crosses intra-racial, ethnic as well as black native and immigrant lines.

Dr. Miller is also excited to have the opportunity to share her scholarly work with the USD community, and in particular to teach courses that expose USD students to accounts of American history that they may not have had the chance to previously explore. This year, she will be teaching classes in African American History and African American Women's History. Her goal is to equip students with the tools necessary to identify, question, and expand master historical narratives. In her words, "I want show them how relevant this history is to the makings of the society in which they live, and encourage them to utilize history as a guide in assessing and responding to the pressing issues of today."

Please join us in extending Dr. Miller a very warm welcome!

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## Dr. Serbin meets Pope Francis at historic Huntington's disease gathering

by Kenneth P. Serbin

In a stirring speech at the Vatican transmitted globally, Pope Francis declared to the world on May 18 that Huntington's disease should be "hidden no more!"

"It is not simply a slogan, so much as a commitment that we all must foster," the head of the Catholic Church said of the idea embraced by the 1,500 HD family members and supporters gathered at the Vatican for "HDdenomore: Pope Francis's Special Audience with the Huntington's Disease Community in Solidarity with South America.



*Dr. Serbin, daughter Bianca, and mother-in-law Maria de Lourdes Alves Barros pictured with Pope Francis. Photo credit: L'Osservatore Romano.*

After the speech, the highly popular and charismatic Pope Francis stopped to greet, hug, kiss, console, and have selfies taken with about 300 HD family members, HD researchers, pharmaceutical company representatives, and dignitaries seated in the front rows of the auditorium.

Among the special guests were Kenneth P. Serbin, Ph.D., Professor of History, his wife Regina, daughter Bianca, and mother-in-law Maria de Lourdes Alves Barros, of Brazil. A Catholic and author of two books on the history of the Brazilian Catholic Church, Dr. Serbin is also known by his pseudonym "Gene Veritas" (the "truth in my genes"): he carries the genetic defect for HD.

Dr. Serbin's mother died of HD in 2006 after a long battle against its haunting symptoms, which resemble a combination of Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and psychiatric and behavioral disorders. As Pope Francis recognized, HD families also battle stigma, discrimination, and misunderstanding about the disease.

“My mother died of Huntington’s,” Dr. Serbin told the pope, handing him a picture of his parents, Carol and Paul Serbin. “My father cared for her for twenty years.” After presenting him with a copy of his books, Dr. Serbin thanked Francis for “supporting our community.”

HDdenmore was the largest gathering of HD families and patients in the history of the disease. Francis praised the work of researchers seeking treatments for the incurable disorder.

Read more and watch a video of Dr. Serbin discussing the event at this link: <http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/business/biotech/sd-me-meeting-pope-20170602-story.html>.

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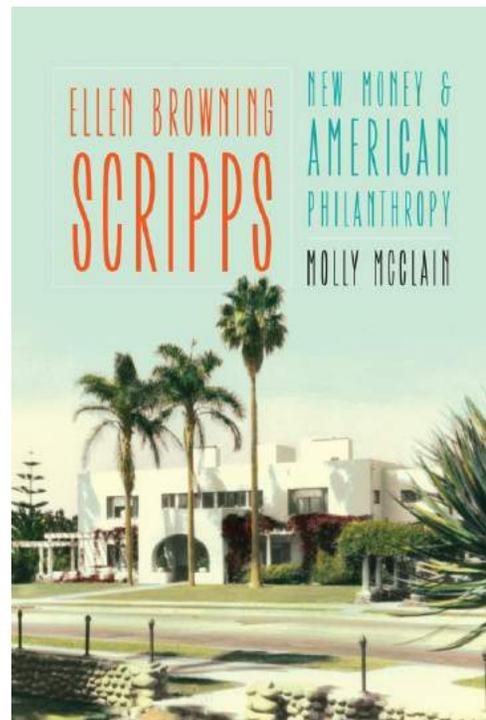
## Professor Molly McClain's New Biography of Ellen Browning Scripps

In her new book *Ellen Browning Scripps: New Money and American Philanthropy* (University of Nebraska Press, June 2017), author [Molly McClain](#) brings to life an extraordinary woman who played a vital role in the history of women, California, and the American West.

McClain tells the remarkable story of Ellen Browning Scripps (1836–1932), an American newspaperwoman, feminist, suffragist, abolitionist, and social reformer who used her fortune to support women’s education, the labor movement, and public access to science, the arts, and education.

Scripps and her brother E.W. Scripps built America’s largest chain of newspapers, linking Midwestern industrial cities with booming towns in the West. Less well known today than the papers started by Joseph Pulitzer and William Randolph Hearst, Scripps newspapers transformed their owners into millionaires almost overnight.

By the 1920s Scripps was worth an estimated \$30 million, most of which she gave away. She established the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in La Jolla, California, and appeared on the cover of *Time* magazine after founding Scripps College in Claremont, California. She also provided major financial support to organizations worldwide that promised to advance democratic principles and public education.



McClain gave an interview on her new book to Kenneth P. Serbin, Ph.D., on September 21, 2017, at the University of San Diego. [Watch the video here.](#)

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## Faculty Highlights and Awards

Congratulations to Dr. David Miller for receiving the 2017 Faculty Award for Exceptional Teaching.



Congratulations to Dr. Yi Sun for receiving the 2017 Honor's program *Mens et Spiritus Award*.



Congratulations to Dr. Kathryn Statler for receiving the 2017 USD Just Read Award.



Mayor Faulconer declared May 11 "Iris Engstrand Day" in the city of San Diego.

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