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March 12, 1998

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

“UNRULY WOMEN” TO BE TOPIC OF DISCUSSION AT EIU

CHARLESTON -- Three Eastern Illinois University historians will examine the issue of “Unruly Women: Historical Perspectives on Gender, Conflict and Public Life” as part of this year’s celebration of Women’s History and Awareness Month.

The event has been scheduled for 7 p.m. Monday, March 23, in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union’s Charleston/Mattoon Room. Admission is free and open to the public.

“The purpose of this panel is to further the aims of Women’s History and Awareness Month and we will do this by demonstrating the ways historians examine questions of gender in historical perspectives,” said participant Lynne Curry from Eastern’s history department.

Curry, who will discuss early 20th-century progressive politics, will be joined by EIU’s David Kammerling Smith (18th-century France) and Ben Fallaw (politics and Latin America), as well as Stacey Robertson, assistant professor of history and director of the Women’s Study Program at Bradley University. Anita Shelton, chair of Eastern’s history department, will serve as panel chair

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during the 90-minute discussion.

“I think there’s a whole world out there of women’s history and gender history that is waiting to be explored,” Curry continued, adding that this discussion is primarily about the ways historians can use gender as an analytic category when exploring the past. Women’s history has always been thought of as separate and apart from the rest of history.

“It could benefit a lot of students because many aren’t aware of what gender history is,” she said. “It would be a way of approaching history that’s new to them.”