

4-4-1996

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Recommended Citation

University Marketing and Communications, "04/04/1996 - EIU Professor Receives Research Grant" (1996). 1996. 79.
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96-95

April 4, 1996

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

EIU VISITING PROFESSOR RECEIVES RESEARCH GRANT

CHARLESTON -- Gretchen E. Knapp, visiting assistant professor of history at Eastern Illinois University, is one of seven scholars nationwide to receive grants totaling \$15,000 to pursue historical research at the New York State Archives on public policy issues such as homelessness, criminal identification, rural schools and discrimination in prison sentences.

The grants are the first to be awarded under the new Larry J. Hackman Research Residency Program, which provides financial assistance to scholars who use the holdings of the New York State Archives to pursue research related to New York State history, government or public policy.

The program is sponsored by the Archives Partnership Trust and named after a former New York State archivist.

"We look forward to the fresh insights and new perspectives that these researchers will mine from the wealth of material at the State Archives," said Christine Ward, head of Archival Services for the New York State Archives.

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Ward explained that preference was given to those applicants who planned to use records that had just been acquired by the archives or records that have not been used very much. Each scholar will make a public presentation on the results of his/her research project.

Knapp was among 42 scholars from across the country who applied for research grants. She is joined by grant recipients from Cornell, Princeton, Columbia and Clarion universities; Dartmouth College; and UCLA.

Her research, "War and Welfare: Public Policy and Social Problem-Solving in New York," will concentrate on the connections between homefront mobilization and policy-making during two world wars, and the expanded role of the state in society and welfare state that was instituted as a result.

Her particular interest in New York is based on its reputation over many years as the most progressive and influential state in social policy making with legislative standards that have influenced the nation. Among a broad range of documents on war and welfare, she will include those concerning discrimination, child care, women, delinquency and migrant workers.

At Eastern, Knapp has been teaching in the area of historical administration and archival and oral history. She is an adviser for the department newsletter and is involved in other department activities.