



**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | 11/30/2017**

**CONTACT: Jaime Franchi | Long Island University**

**O: 516-299-3204 | E: [jaime.franchi@liu.edu](mailto:jaime.franchi@liu.edu)**

**LIU Post Announces \$1 Million Grant from Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation to Expand Project to Preserve LI History**

*Grant Expands Partnership with LIU Post's Acclaimed Palmer School*

**BROOKVILLE, N.Y. (November 30, 2017)** –LIU Post's Palmer School of Library and Information Science was awarded a \$1 million grant from the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation to expand an important project to both preserve Long Island's history and make it more accessible.

The \$1 million grant comes on the heels of an initial \$500,000 grant from the Foundation in 2016 to launch the Digitizing Long Island History project. The project has received a far greater response than anticipated from historical societies, both in terms of the number of participants and volume of material. Under the initial grant, the Palmer School is partnering with 28 historical societies. The additional \$1 million grant will expand the project to 80 historical societies over 4 years.

“We are proud to expand the successful partnership between the nationally-recognized Palmer School and the Robert David Lion Gardner Foundation to help protect our region's rich history,” said LIU President Dr. Kimberly R. Cline. “This project to preserve vital historical documents and make them accessible will have a lasting impact on our region, now and for future generations.”

The Palmer School is a national leader in library science and one of just 62 schools accredited by the American Library Association. It offers the only Ph.D. program in Information Studies in the New York metropolitan area and is the only library sciences school in our region to be admitted into membership in the prestigious iSchools Consortium.

The project is led by Dr. Gregory Hunter, Professor of Library and Information Science, who heads the doctoral program at the Palmer School. Dr. Hunter is a nationally-recognized expert who was a key member of the team that designed and implemented the Electronic Records Archives for the National Archives and Records Administration. A Certified Archivist and a Certified Records Manager, Dr. Hunter is the Editor of the leading peer-reviewed journal in the field, *The American Archivist*, and his award-winning book is the standard text in the field.

“The Gardiner Foundation's grant will allow us to preserve Long Island's history and ensure that the next generation of archival professionals has the skills to preserve history in



the digital age,” said Dr. Hunter. “This continues the important work of the Palmer School, which is our region’s leading information school.”

The grant includes significant scholarship support for masters and Ph.D. students at the Palmer School, in addition to opportunities for long-term fieldwork placement that benefit both the historical societies and Palmer School students.

“Due to the overwhelming response and success of this project, we are pleased to be able to award this new grant to expand our partnership with the Palmer School,” said Kathryn M. Curran, Executive Director of the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation. “The Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation’s mission is to promote our regional history. The artifacts and archives of historical societies are untapped treasure troves for researchers and scholars. It is our hope that this award will make these collections available as vital part of local historic study. The Palmer School is our region’s leading institution to offer the expertise and resources to accomplish this goal.”

The funding will also allow for an annual Gardiner Symposium to begin next year, which will showcase progress and feature historical documents.

# # #