Principal Investigator: Elizabeth Willingham
Department: English
College/School: Arts and Sciences
Project Title: Research residency for The Critical Companion to the Text, Narrative, and Decoration of the Lancelot of Yale 229

Abstract:
The award will cover the greater portion of travel expenses for in-residence research for a book in Arthurian studies, The Critical Companion to the Text, Narrative, and Decoration of the Lancelot of Yale 229. The book treats an extensively decorated thirteenth-century Arthurian codex owned by the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library (Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut) and will be published as a volume in the Brepols series The Lancelot of Yale 229 (expected 2015).* The book is planned to include my introductory essays on the codex’s scribal and decorative work and its narratives followed by detailed, folio-by-folio critical commentary on the codex’s decorative program with indices of motifs and narrative elements. Each folio contains highly conscious artistic features, and many have detailed narrative illustrations and marginal decoration that is responsive to the text. The Companion will support teaching, research, and reading of the books of Yale 229, promoting deeply informed approaches to 229’s text, narrative, and art. Over this period, I will study the codex’s decoration by folio for its details and relationship to the narrative and will work through the codex by quire in order to track the development of the artistic program as its products increase in frequency and change in character. Over twelve week days, I will work in the Beinecke to track scribal and decorative details and their narrative/textual relationships and what has been described as “corrections in a later hand” that are somewhat concealed within the text. (This hand may be contemporary with the codex, rather than “later,” and a close observation of it during this period may lead to a new dating.) When the Beinecke is closed (on weekends), I will work through a bibliography of critical references in the Sterling and Bass Libraries. My dates can be flexible over July-August as this grant requires.

* This grant will cover airfare (@ $650) and most of the lodging expenses (@$3000) for the residency period.