



Spring 3-24-1983

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Recommended Citation

Alsene, Ed, "Larry Colter Received Grant of \$2,700 from National Endowment of Humanities Summer Stipends" (1983). *News and Events*. 7417.
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Mar. 24, 1983 ea

BLOOMINGTON, ILL.--Dr. Larry Colter, associate professor of philosophy at Illinois Wesleyan University, has received a grant of \$2,700 from the National Endowment of Humanities Summer Stipends program.

The grant will cover expenses incurred in writing two chapters of a book in July and August.

Colter, who is chairman of the department of philosophy at Wesleyan, started writing the volume in January, when his one-semester sabbatical began. He is using the facilities of Wesleyan and the University of Illinois for research.

Colter's purpose in writing the book is to establish that there are certain natural human rights and that their existence can be rationally confirmed--not just granted by a government or some other social institution.

"Providing such a demonstration of the existence of basic rights is something that has never been accomplished," said Colter, who is chairman of the philosophy department at Wesleyan.

The chapters for which he received the grant will be the last two in the writing process although they won't be the last of the 11 chapters of a volume Colter expects to be from 200 to 300 pages in length. He plans to complete the first draft in August.

"The book will be of primary interest to professionals, but should be accessible to the educated layman. I would think it would be of interest to lawyers, social scientists and people in the humanities," he said.

The purpose of the NEH's summer program is to provide teachers in undergraduate and two-year colleges with a unique opportunity for advanced study or research in their own fields or in other fields related to their interests. Only persons teaching undergraduate courses, full or part time, are eligible. The program was established by the United States Congress in 1965.

Colter, 43, has been a member of the Wesleyan faculty since 1966.

He received a bachelor of arts degree and a master of arts degree, both in English, from Colorado State University, Fort Collins. He earned a master of arts in philosophy and a doctorate in philosophy from the University of Illinois.

Colter's special interest in the argument of existence of basic human rights began when he wrote a paper taking the opposite tack for a lecture at Wesleyan six or seven years ago, he said. Dissatisfied with that sceptical conclusion, he began research that led him to his present position.