



# Congressional Papers Roundtable

NEWSLETTER

Society of American Archivists

Fall 2013

## From the Chair:

By Betsy Pittman

The SAA pre-conference program reflected the concerns of the roundtable members: advocacy, deeds of gift and digitization. To get us all moving in the first morning session Kate Cruikshank, Matt Fulgham, Lori Schwartz, Linda Whitaker, Brian Keogh, Jill Severn, Jeff Thomas and Sheryl Vogt took on a variety of roles to demonstrate the variety of opportunities available to congressional archivists to make their “pitch.” In each scenario, the archivist took advantage of a chance (or planned) meeting to advocate for support for the collections with an administrator, the media, and donors. Following the morning break, I led an open discussion regarding the difficulty in securing Deeds of Gift for our Congressional collection transfers. Participants provided examples of both successful and unsuccessful approaches, as well as handling unwanted materials. The afternoon began with an informal presentation by Tanya Zanish-Belcher and Frank Boles regarding the advocacy work of

*(Continued on page 2)*

## CPR Business Meeting Minutes

August 14, 2013

Chair Leigh McWhite opened the meeting and introduced members of the Steering Committee as well as past CPR chairs in attendance. She also thanked Bob Henderson of Hollinger Inc. for their continued financial support for lunches available at the pre-conference in the Historic New Orleans facility and asked members to express their thanks in person in the Exhibitor’s Hall. A card of appreciation was circulated as well.

Electronic Records Task Force Co-Chair Jan Zastrow outlined the activities and accomplishments of the task force over the past year (written report is available on the CPR website).

Advocacy Task Force Co-Chair Katherine Fleming described the strategic plan developed by her group (available online).

Diversity Task Force Co-Chair Mary Anne Hamblen described the strategic plan developed by her group (available online). The task-force will be reporting on the survey at the 2014 business meeting.

Chair-Elect Betsy Pittman informed the meeting that she would share the information regarding retirements/leaving Congress information via these minutes. This is a continuation of a project to trace the papers of recently departed members of Congress and inform repositories with no known members in CPR about the invaluable resources and provided by CPR. Of 15 senators leaving in

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SAA, in general. Issues such as FOIA, equal access, as well as the demands of stewardship, copyright, and privacy were all presented for consideration as they pertain to advocacy. The ongoing need for increased awareness of the role and purpose of archives and public outreach was discussed as the conversation wrapped up. The final session of the day was an in-depth look at the digitization activity at the University of Massachusetts-Lowell, Middle Tennessee State University and Florida State University. The presenters included issues such as access, copyright, selection, planning and scope in their talks.

On a personal note, to those who may wish to continue the conversation regarding Deeds of Gift, please contact me ([betsy.pittman@uconn.edu](mailto:betsy.pittman@uconn.edu)). I would love to continue the conversation and have something to bring to the roundtable for future consideration. I also encourage anyone interested in participating in the work of the roundtable to be in touch as well; there are a many ways to contribute! I also invite everyone to come visit our first large-scale digitization effort (live as of November 13, 2013) at <http://archives.lib.uconn.edu>. The project, over a year in the making, makes accessible the records collected by Senator Thomas J. Dodd in his capacity as Executive Trial Counsel for the United States at the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg.

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*(Business Meeting, continued from page 1)*

2012: 4 remain in private custody; 3 papers went to repositories with CPR members; and 8 sets were transferred to 7 archives without any CPR members. Of 83 congressmen leaving during the last Congress: the fates of 77 members' papers remain unknown; 2 collections went to repositories with CPR members; and 4 sets of papers were delivered to 4 archives without any CPR members. Thus, eleven letters were sent to archives without CPR members. A letter has been drafted to be sent to these seven repositories, in conjunction with the Association of Centers for the Study of Congress, describing our group's mission, resources available, the newsletter and

the listservs, and referred recipients to Miller's *Managing Congressional Collections*. Ongoing collaboration with the Association of Centers for the Study of Congress continues. ACSC is working with the Association of Former Members of Congress to have the message conveyed by individuals who have been through the process and can highlight the significance of placement in an appropriate repository.

Reports from the following will be posted on the CPR website in conjunction with the minutes: Sheryl Vogt presented a report on the activities of the Association of Centers for the Study of Congress (ACSC). Highlights include: Scholarship to attend SAA Awarded to Danielle Emerling, Raymond Smock Fellowship award, National History Day prize, ongoing work with the Kettering Foundation, and the change of Congress Week to April.

Matt Fulgham reported on the activities of NARA's Center for Legislative Archives. Highlights include: ongoing work of staff, especially with social media.

Robin Reeder reported on activities of the Office of Art and Archives in the U.S. House of Representatives. Highlights include: New website <http://history.house.gov>, consultations, use of AT for finding aids. List of retiring Members provided.

Karen Paul reported on activities of the Senate Historical Office. Highlights include: Outreach to Senate offices, transfers, report of the Advisory Committee published, ongoing description. List of retiring Senators provided.

New Chair Betsy Pittman provided a few remarks at the end of the program: volunteers will be needed to help carry out the activities of the roundtable and announcements will appear on listserv; request for volunteers or nominations for new Historian's position; reminder of endorsement requests for proposals for 2014 SAA annual meeting.

## **Congressional Papers Roundtable Leadership Roster 2012-2013**

### **Chair:**

Betsy Pittman (University of Connecticut)

### **Immediate Past Chair:**

Leigh McWhite (University of Mississippi)

### **Chair-Elect:**

Robert Spindler (Arizona State University)

### **Second Year Steering Committee Members:**

Katherine Fleming (Barry University)

Mary Anne Hamblen (University of Alaska, Fairbanks)

### **First Year Steering Committee Members:**

Brian Keough (University at Albany SUNY)

Audrey Coleman (University of Kansas)

### **Organizational Representatives:**

Karen Paul (U.S. Senate Archivist)

Robin Reeder (U.S. House of Representatives Archivist)

Matt Fulgham (Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives & Records Administration)

### **Ex Officio:**

#### *Newsletter Co-Editors:*

Jessica Agler (University of Nebraska at Omaha) and Sarah D'Antonio (University of Kansas)

#### *Web Liaison:*

Robin Reeder (U.S. House of Representatives)

#### *Historian:*

Mary Anne Hamblen (University of Alaska, Fairbanks)

### **SAA Council Liaison:**

Bill Landis (Yale University)

## **Establishing Electronic Records Management at the University of Delaware: Accessioning and Appraising the Electronic Records of Senator Edward E. (Ted) Kaufman**

By Danielle Emerling

CPR Electronic Records Committee

In 2009, Senator Edward E. (Ted) Kaufman was appointed to fill the Senate seat left vacant when Delaware's longtime Senator Joseph R. Biden, Jr., was elected Vice President of the United States. Kaufman, no stranger to the Senate after having served as both State Director (1973-1976) and Chief of Staff (1976-1995) for Joe Biden, accepted his appointment with a declaration that he would not seek election when the seat was open in 2010. As senator, Kaufman initially served on the Judiciary and Foreign Relations committees, and he worked on legislation aimed at reforming Wall Street and the financial system. Shortly after his appointment, he co-introduced the Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act (FERA), which was signed into law. He then co-introduced the SAFE Banking Act of 2010, which would have limited the size of banks.

In March 2010, Kaufman began work on two additional committees – Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and Armed Services. His work on these committees took him on several Congressional Delegation (CODEL) trips to Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iraq to visit troops and military leaders, and to the West Bank and Israel, and Turkey and Syria. Additionally, as the only engineer serving in Congress, Kaufman was an active promoter of the expansion of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education, and he worked to procure funds for research and extension grants for women and minorities in STEM fields.

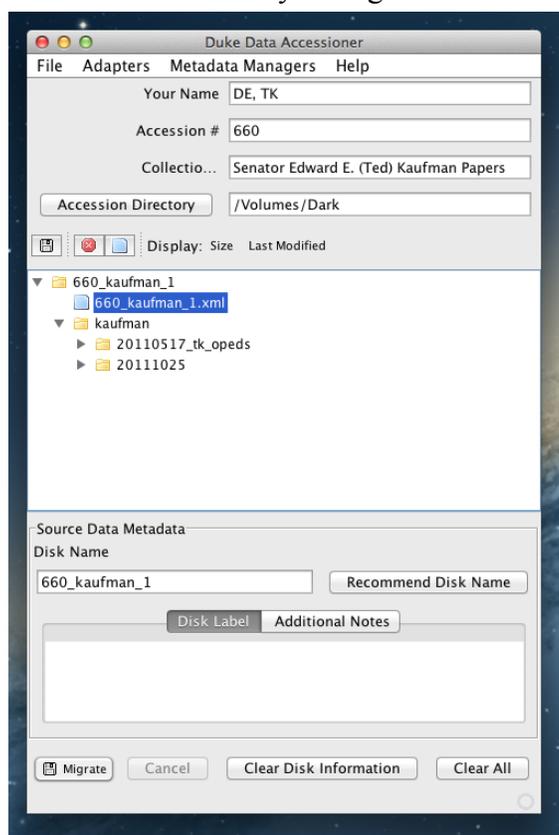
After his term expired in November 2010, Kaufman donated his papers to the University of Delaware. <http://www.udel.edu/udaily/2011/nov/senator-kaufman-papers-112410.html>

Office files and documents were acquired as the Senator vacated his offices in Washington and Wilmington, but the Senator's electronic files were not transferred until 2012. Unfortunately, these e-records, stored on a hard drive and given directly to a library administrator, bypassed standard accession procedures for manuscript and archival collections. The Kaufman electronic records were copied onto a library server without archival procedures to ensure authenticity and integrity of the files.

Two congressional collections project archivists (Danielle Emerling and Tammi Kim) began working in the Manuscripts and Archives Department in January 2013. Among other tasks, they were charged with establishing an electronic records management program for the department. They researched procedures, equipment, and software; worked with library IT staff to set up a stand-alone electronic records workstation; and Kaufman's electronic records were the first to be accessioned. After performing a virus scan on the records, the archivists created a disk image.

The files were then transferred from the shared server to the newly created "dark" archive, a secure area of the server only accessible from the workstation, using Duke Data Accessioner (DDA). DDA creates an XML metadata file for each accession, or transfer, that includes checksums, file formats, and context information for the records, which is stored in a "metadata" folder with the accessioned collection. The records totaled about 90 gigabytes, and the transfer ran for almost a week.

The archivists started DDA each morning and allowed it to run throughout the work day and into the evening. The screenshot below shows the tool ready to migrate an accession to the dark archive.



Files were then copied to another area of the server called the "working" archive to be appraised, arranged, and described. The Digital Record Object Identification (DROID) tool from the UK National Archives was used primarily to identify file formats, but it also usefully exports a log of the files, including their format, size, names, and checksums, in the CSV format that can be opened in Microsoft Excel, shown below.

ID	PAREN_URI	FILE_PATH	NAME	SIZE	EXT	EXTENSION	MD5_HASH	FORMAT_CO_PID	MIME_TYPE	FORMATTING	
1	###	file:/Volumes/working/660_kaufman/660_kaufman/	/Volumes/working/660_kaufman/660_kaufman_5/02.25.09.doc	30720	doc	FALSE	0003f2a646a8a56bee09ae0	1	fmt/40	application/microsc	
4	####	file:/Volumes/working/660_kaufman/660_kaufman/	/Volumes/working/660_kaufman/660_kaufman_3/_SECUR*2.DX	4096	doc	FALSE	00040a61ddca6ba94d6a3f	1	fmt/503	AppleD	
5	####	file:/Volumes/working/660_kaufman/660_kaufman/	/Volumes/working/660_kaufman/660_kaufman_3/_SECUR*2.DX	4096	doc	FALSE	00040a61ddca6ba94d6a3f	1	fmt/503	AppleD	
7	1003	992	zip:file:/Volumes/working/660_kaufman/660_kaufman_4/kaufman/Press%20Archives/Audio-Video%20_kaufman-u	197	mp3	FALSE	000b8472a509d22f9b7edc	1	fmt/503	AppleD	
9	####	file:/Volumes/working/660_kaufman/660_kaufman/	/Volumes/working/660_kaufman/660_kaufman_3/Dark Pools [C	73216	doc	FALSE	000e76d93ca1f526da9d4c	1	fmt/40	application/microsc	
10	####	file:/Volumes/working/660_kaufman/660_kaufman/	/Volumes/working/660_kaufman/660_kaufman_3/Dark Pools [C	73216	doc	FALSE	000e76d93ca1f526da9d4c	1	fmt/40	application/microsc	
11	####	file:/Volumes/working/660_kaufman/660_kaufman/	/Volumes/working/660_kaufman/660_kaufman_3/Draft buildin	27648	doc	FALSE	000f1008a84ad9a228c1d	1	fmt/40	application/microsc	
12	####	file:/Volumes/working/660_kaufman/660_kaufman/	/Volumes/working/660_kaufman/660_kaufman_3/Draft buildin	27648	doc	FALSE	000f1008a84ad9a228c1d	1	fmt/40	application/microsc	
13	####	file:/Volumes/working/660_kaufman/660_kaufman/	/Volumes/working/660_kaufman/660_kaufman_3/Draft buildin	27648	doc	FALSE	000f1008a84ad9a228c1d	1	fmt/40	application/microsc	
14	6086	6075	file:/Volumes/working/660_kaufman/660_kaufman/	/Volumes/working/660_kaufman/660_kaufman_4/03-25-09.TK	158208	doc	FALSE	0013d4e9270e00b9e3ccec	1	fmt/40	application/microsc
15	####	file:/Volumes/working/660_kaufman/660_kaufman/	/Volumes/working/660_kaufman/660_kaufman_3/IMG_0966.JPG	1625820	jpg	FALSE	0015fe781f09ae6f653ba4f	1	fmt/43	image/jpeg	
16	####	file:/Volumes/working/660_kaufman/660_kaufman/	/Volumes/working/660_kaufman/660_kaufman_3/IMG_0966.JPG	1625820	jpg	FALSE	0015fe781f09ae6f653ba4f	1	fmt/43	image/jpeg	
17	####	file:/Volumes/working/660_kaufman/660_kaufman/	/Volumes/working/660_kaufman/660_kaufman_5/IMG_0966.JPG	1625820	jpg	FALSE	0015fe781f09ae6f653ba4f	1	fmt/43	image/jpeg	
18	####	file:/Volumes/working/660_kaufman/660_kaufman/	/Volumes/working/660_kaufman/660_kaufman_5/IMG_0966.JPG	1625820	jpg	FALSE	0015fe781f09ae6f653ba4f	1	fmt/43	image/jpeg	
19	####	file:/Volumes/working/660_kaufman/660_kaufman/	/Volumes/working/660_kaufman/660_kaufman_5/IMG_0966.JPG	1625820	jpg	FALSE	0015fe781f09ae6f653ba4f	1	fmt/43	image/jpeg	
20	####	file:/Volumes/working/660_kaufman/660_kaufman/	/Volumes/working/660_kaufman/660_kaufman_1/IMG_0966.JPG	1625820	jpg	FALSE	0015fe781f09ae6f653ba4f	1	fmt/43	image/jpeg	
21	####	file:/Volumes/working/660_kaufman/660_kaufman/	/Volumes/working/660_kaufman/660_kaufman_3/Grant Thornt	44032	doc	FALSE	001856c32ad9d02d0cc90	1	fmt/40	application/microsc	
22	####	file:/Volumes/working/660_kaufman/660_kaufman/	/Volumes/working/660_kaufman/660_kaufman_3/Grant Thornt	44032	doc	FALSE	001856c32ad9d02d0cc90	1	fmt/40	application/microsc	
23	####	file:/Volumes/working/660_kaufman/660_kaufman/	/Volumes/working/660_kaufman/660_kaufman_3/Grant Thornt	44032	doc	FALSE	001856c32ad9d02d0cc90	1	fmt/40	application/microsc	
24	####	file:/Volumes/working/660_kaufman/660_kaufman/	/Volumes/working/660_kaufman/660_kaufman_3/Grant Thornt	44032	doc	FALSE	001856c32ad9d02d0cc90	1	fmt/40	application/microsc	
25	2699	2541	file:/Volumes/working/660_kaufman/660_kaufman/	/Volumes/working/660_kaufman/660_kaufman_4/IMG_1010.JPG	1681216	jpg	FALSE	00194d9172e2aba95b64a	1	x-fmt/391	image/jpeg
26	####	file:/Volumes/working/660_kaufman/660_kaufman/	/Volumes/working/660_kaufman/660_kaufman_3/IMG_1010.JPG	1681216	jpg	FALSE	00194d9172e2aba95b64a	1	x-fmt/391	image/jpeg	
27	####	file:/Volumes/working/660_kaufman/660_kaufman/	/Volumes/working/660_kaufman/660_kaufman_3/IMG_1010.JPG	1681216	jpg	FALSE	00194d9172e2aba95b64a	1	x-fmt/391	image/jpeg	
28	####	file:/Volumes/working/660_kaufman/660_kaufman/	/Volumes/working/660_kaufman/660_kaufman_5/IMG_1010.JPG	1681216	jpg	FALSE	00194d9172e2aba95b64a	1	x-fmt/391	image/jpeg	
29	####	file:/Volumes/working/660_kaufman/660_kaufman/	/Volumes/working/660_kaufman/660_kaufman_5/IMG_1010.JPG	1681216	jpg	FALSE	00194d9172e2aba95b64a	1	x-fmt/391	image/jpeg	
30	####	file:/Volumes/working/660_kaufman/660_kaufman/	/Volumes/working/660_kaufman/660_kaufman_5/IMG_1010.JPG	1681216	jpg	FALSE	00194d9172e2aba95b64a	1	x-fmt/391	image/jpeg	
31	####	file:/Volumes/working/660_kaufman/660_kaufman/	/Volumes/working/660_kaufman/660_kaufman_5/TK CODEL 06	1681216	jpg	FALSE	00194d9172e2aba95b64a	1	x-fmt/391	image/jpeg	
32	####	file:/Volumes/working/660_kaufman/660_kaufman/	/Volumes/working/660_kaufman/660_kaufman_1/IMG_1010.JPG	1681216	jpg	FALSE	00194d9172e2aba95b64a	1	x-fmt/391	image/jpeg	

Using Excel’s conditional formatting tool, the archivists were able to identify duplicate files, or files with the same checksum. In the screenshot above, duplicate files are highlighted in red.

Identifying which files were originals and which duplicates was a challenge. Because of the method in which the files were transferred from the hard drive, a number of the creation dates had been changed to the date on which the transfer occurred. Additionally, files were sometimes stored in multiple locations; for example, Senate CODEL pictures were stored in a folder labeled as such, but at least two Kaufman staff members kept copies in their legislative staff folders.

In most cases, the archivists found it was most efficient to retain the set of duplicate files that were easy to find and identify, particularly those with descriptive file names. The archivists tried to delete folders that contained multiple duplicate files and avoided appraising on the item level. They would not search through folders for a single duplicate file. While not all duplicate files could be easily disposed, a number of folders were deleted, reducing the total size of the “working” electronic records from 90 to 60 gigabytes. The archivists also performed some initial arrangement as they disposed of duplicate files. Empty folders were deleted, and files contained within multiple folder levels were condensed.

The next step in appraising the electronic records is scanning the files for Personally Identifiable Information (PII), such as social security numbers, email addresses, and telephone numbers. The archivists have attempted to find PII with two different tools, Spider and BitCurator, but both have been unsuccessful. Both tools were able to identify PII in some test instances, but neither has adequately performed a scan on the Kaufman electronic records. The archivists suspect this is due to the size of the files or the network attached storage configuration, but they are investigating the failures and seeking an alternative tool.

Following appraisal, the archivists will complete the arrangement of the electronic records and describe them at the series and, potentially, folder levels in the collection finding aid. Files will be moved to a read only “access” archive, and plans are being made to install a reading room electronic records workstation to provide access to digital files.

The processing of the Kaufman born digital records is expected to be complete by the end of 2013, and a number of these files will be used in an online exhibit using Omeka in early 2014. Project archivists Danielle Emerling and Tammi Kim hope to report on the completion of this project soon.

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## **Re-interpreting the Value of State Legislator Papers for Documenting the Civil Rights Movement**

By Brian Keough

In 2007, political opponents of U.S. presidential candidate Barack Obama criticized his decision to refuse the release of his state legislator records from the eight years he served in the Illinois State Senate from 1997–2004. He replied to this criticism declaring that “I don't have archivists in the state Senate. I don't have the Barack Obama State Senate library available to me, so we had a bunch of file cabinets.”<sup>1</sup> Illinois is one of a majority of states with no statutes defining ownership, custody, or allocation of resources for state legislators' papers. The time has come to adjust archival perspectives in accordance with a more nuanced understanding and reconceptualization of the importance of state legislators' papers in documenting the changing landscape of legislative diversity, issue-oriented legislators, and increasingly complex interactions between elected officials and interest groups. The following discussion articulates for a renewed interpretation of the value of state legislator papers necessitating action regarding ownership.

Voters' attention increasingly points to not only Washington but also to the state capitols. The Affordable Care Act and recent Supreme Court decisions on the Voting Rights Act, same-sex marriage and affirmative action continue to underscore the historic role of state legislatures to foster their own interpretations of these judicial rulings. Furthermore, a state legislator position is often a stepping stone to the national stage. The current U.S. Congress consists of 337 members who were at one time State legislators. More than half of U.S. Presidents served in a state or colonial legislature, including President Obama, who is part of a breakthrough generation that benefited from the gains made by civil rights movement.

The 1965 Voting Rights Act gave African-American voters the legal means to challenge voting restrictions, and within months of its passage on August 6, 1965, one quarter of a million new black voters had been registered. The Voting Rights Act also had long-term effects on the political landscape and led to dramatic increases in the number of African-Americans elected to public office. Consider that in 1965 there were 94 African-Americans constituting .02% of all state legislators nationwide, with only 16 in southern states home, at that time, to half of the nation's black population. In 1986 that figure rose to 401, and today there are 628 African-American State lawmakers (9% nationwide). Although election rates still lag behind the percentage of the nation's population, the past several decades witnessed minority enfranchisement realign political power in several states, especially the South.

Once elected, the civil rights movement transitioned from black protest to black politics to affect the legislative process and political outcomes. African-American state legislators brought new views to the policy agenda that addressed concerns over discriminatory practices, fought legislation deemed harmful to minority interests, and pursued expanded opportunities and programs in economic development, human services, and public education. Newly elected black legislators sought acceptance as active, influential players in the mainstream political game that extended beyond the laws they tried to

pass, and provided valuable insights into influence on committee and party leadership positions. We are in serious danger of losing access to this generation of politicians elected since the 1965 Voting Rights Act, including the early political career of President Obama.

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The lack of state laws regarding the ownership of state legislators' papers has a direct impact on the resources allocated for proper acquisition and management of these collections. In 2013, Elizabeth Novara and I published our research on how laws, or the lack thereof, affected the acquisition of state legislators' papers. We found that ownership of state legislators' papers falls into three distinct categories: public record by law; private by law or policy; private by custom and tradition (no law).<sup>ii</sup>

Nine states, including Pennsylvania and Texas, currently designate state legislators' papers as *public record by law* and they treated the same as committee records and other records of official legislative business. The Pennsylvania House of Representatives Archives is the state agency responsible for maintaining legislator papers. In Texas, state law allocates funding for legislators to send inactive records that are "created or received and maintained" by their staffs to the Texas State Library and Archives Commission because the records "provide uniquely valuable insight into and documentation of the role and development of Texas law and government."<sup>iii</sup> Five states fall into a second category that designate legislator papers *private by law*, including California's "private by law policy" articulated in the California Legislative Open Records Act of 1975. Similar to the policy set for members of the U.S. Congress, this category clearly distinguishes between public committee records and private state legislators' records.

However, the majority of states have no specific legal mandate defining ownership of state legislators' papers and are private by custom and tradition. Having no assigned owner, when a state legislator leaves office, his or her papers are considered private property and, in many cases, their owners discard them unless research libraries actively collect these materials. New York provides an interesting example of the challenges faced with no specific law or resolution for ownership of state legislator or governor's papers. A 1987 New York State Archives assessment report on the records of the state legislature indicated that "many important archival records of legislative activities have been lost or destroyed through neglect or through conscious decisions to dispose of records without prior consideration of their potential long range value."<sup>iv</sup> Following the 1987 assessment, the New York State Archives launched the Legislative Archives Project and added more than 600 cubic feet of legislative records from committees, commissions, and leadership offices, and advised on systematic procedures for retention, and disposition. While improving the documentation of New York's official legislative proceedings, state legislator papers received less attention.

The absence of a legal definition of ownership for most state legislator papers contributes to a lack of understanding of their value to the history of the civil right movement. There is a significant gap in repository holdings of the papers of New York's African-American elected officials, even though it is

the papers of former State Senator and Congressman Major Owens. Are every state legislator's political papers worthy of retention? Of course not. Yet, the increased use of archives by political scientists as well as historians underscores the importance of establishing ownership, creating awareness in the profession, and implementing appraisal strategies and records management procedures to reduce the size and complexity of state legislators papers.

In states with no law or policy, archivists need to educate and influence decision-makers on the importance of developing legislation that defines ownership and allocates resources. We need the support of State Historical Records Advisory Boards and research libraries to provide leadership in promoting the value of legislator papers to the history of social movements. We should advocate for the establishment of a political papers task force in each state modeled on SAA's Congressional Papers Roundtable to foster greater collaboration between State Archives and Research Libraries and generate a free flow of information exchange between private repositories, state archives, and individual legislators. Most importantly, states should adopt tools and online resources to reduce the size, complexity, and cost of state legislator papers. The key to extracting maximum value from a legislator's collection lies in formulating a clear basis for making appraisal judgments. Archivists should utilize resources such as the *Texas Records Management Manual for State Legislators*, the Minnesota Historical Society appraisal guidelines for elected officials, and *Managing Congressional Collections* (2008).

State legislator papers reveal issues of importance to citizens, reflect the views of a legislator's home district and efforts to aid constituents. They show causes that are personal as well as political in nature. These records document the legislative process, interactions with other agencies, lobbyists and with constituents, and reflect the years of promoting specific legislation. They are part of local and regional history, including the geographic and demographic parameters of public opinion. Legislator papers are one important part of a larger and richer picture of how politicians and political activists collaborate to affect legislative outcomes. As archivists, we need to make a concerted effort to improve the selection, appraisal, and processing of these collections.

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<sup>i</sup>Lynn Sweet, "Obama says his state papers 'could have been thrown out.' Where is the stuff?," *Chicago Sun-Times*, November 9, 2007, accessed, 3 January 2013, [http://blogs.suntimes.com/sweet/2007/11/sweet\\_web\\_column\\_obama\\_on\\_his.html](http://blogs.suntimes.com/sweet/2007/11/sweet_web_column_obama_on_his.html). ( see Also AP report and ABC News Report)

<sup>ii</sup> See Keough, Brian and Elizabeth Novara. "Public or Private? Reconsidering Ownership and Value of State Legislators' Papers." *Archival Issues: The Journal of the Midwest Archives Conference*, Volume 35:1, September 2013.

<sup>iii</sup> Texas Government Code § 441.006 to Texas State Library and Archives Commission, *Begin with the End in Mind: A Records Management and Archives Manual for Texas Legislators* (2012), 8, accessed July 31, 2012. <https://www.tsl.state.tx.us/sites/default/files/public/tslac/arc/faqforleg/legislativerecsmanual.pdf>.

<sup>iv</sup> New York State Archives. *Guide to the Records of the New York State Legislature*. 1989, p.2-3

# INSTITUTIONAL UPDATES

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## Campbellsville University

Last April the congressional papers of Ron Lewis (R-KY) were opened for research. A ceremony dedicating the papers was held April 8, 2013. They are housed in the A.B. Colvin Baptist Collection and Archives in Campbellsville University's (CU) Montgomery Library.

Lewis served the Second Congressional District of Kentucky from 1994 to 2009. He was elected in a special election to fill the unexpired term of the late William H. Natcher, who served the district from 1953-1994. While serving in Congress, Lewis was a member of many influential committees including Agriculture, National Security, Ways and Means, and Government Reform.

"I cannot tell you how much of an honor this is," Lewis said, "when CU asked for my papers. It's an honor, and I feel very privileged to have served the second congressional district."

Lewis, who serves on the CU Board of Trustees, said he was honored his papers, which features some doodles from Lewis the artist, were at CU. "It was your voice, your office and your seat," he told the audience. "It was hard work but a blessing."

Dr. Glen Taul, CU's archivist, said it had been a pleasure to work on the papers for the last five years. He said there were 87 boxes with over 1,000 folders in the collection.

Taul said the papers are a great asset to the university and to teachers who will make assignments to students and history will be learned. "The papers are very insightful and trace Lewis' decision making process while in Congress," he said. "They are a window into the thinking of the author," Taul said.

He said Lewis' efforts at saving Fort Knox from

being closed and the tobacco buyout were two significant events during his tenure. The collection has copies of the House bills pertaining to the buyout and also many personal and political papers, legislative records, press and media collection, administrative files and other documents of the history of that period in Kentucky.

Taul presented Lewis with a finding aid for the papers.

Good friend John Duncan, United States Congressman from the second district of Tennessee, praised Lewis for his leadership and called him "one of the finest men to ever serve in Congress."

Duncan said Lewis almost immediately emerged as of the "most popular and kindest" congressional members. He said Lewis was a "very active congressman" who came on almost every weekend and represented the district so well.

"Noah was a good man and walked with God. You can say that about Lewis," Duncan said.

Lewis, an amateur artist, presented Campbellsville University an acrylic painting of Madonna and child to be included in the congressional collection.

Congressman Brett Guthrie, Lewis's successor, attended the ceremony as did representatives of Senators Mitch McConnell and Rand Paul and Congressional Harold Rogers. State and local elected officials also attended.

The Finding Aid can be found at [http://www.campbellsville.edu/Websites/cu/images/Library/Merged\\_Cover\\_page\\_Finding\\_Aid\\_Watermarked.pdf](http://www.campbellsville.edu/Websites/cu/images/Library/Merged_Cover_page_Finding_Aid_Watermarked.pdf).

-Glen Taul

## Southwestern University & Southern Methodist University

### Senator John G. Tower Digital Media Collection

Southwestern University's *Senator John G. Tower Library* and Southern Methodist University's *Norwick Center for Digital Services* announce an online collaboration that offers streaming audio-visual materials from Senator Tower's papers.

[The John G. Tower Digital Media Collection](#) contains selected video, film and audio clips that provide valuable insight into U.S. and world history during the 24 years Tower served in the Senate.

To date, more than 200 clips from 1963 to 1992 have been posted online, and more video will be added to the site in the next six months. The clips were selected from the [John G. Tower Papers](#), which are housed at Southwestern, and were digitized and formatted for the web by the [Norwick Center for Digital Services](#) at SMU.

The clips include many of Tower's weekly radio addresses to constituents, as well as interviews he gave to radio and television stations.

The streaming audio, video, and film reflect important events of Tower's era such as the moon landing, Vietnam, energy, civil rights, gun control, environmental issues, arms control, and defense spending –most topics still headlining the news. One of the more popular clips is [Tower reading the last letter that William Barret Travis wrote from the Alamo](#). The collection also includes [Tower's introduction of Barry Goldwater at the 1984 Republican Convention](#) and Tower's [conversations with President Richard Nixon on busing](#).

SMU is home to the [John Goodwin Tower Center for Political Studies](#), and project organizers hope experts who are affiliated with that center will analyze the video and audio files, and add information that explains why the recordings are

important from a political, economic and/or sociological point of view.

“The John Tower Collection is an unique source for all who are interested in the politics of the 1960s through 1980s,” said Tim O’Neill, professor of political science at [Southwestern University](#) and holder of the Tower-Hester Chair in Political Science. “This was a seminal era in the history of American politics and society and Senator Tower was one of the most powerful molders of the era. The Southwestern/SMU digitalized collection will permit scholars and students from around the world to tap into this great research repository.”

The Tower Library houses more than 800 audio, video and film clips related to Tower, but not all of them can be posted online due to copyright restrictions.

A native Texan, Tower received his undergraduate degree from Southwestern in 1948 and his master's degree from SMU in 1953. His political career began in 1961, when he became the first Republican senator elected from Texas since Reconstruction. Tower was named to the Senate Armed Services Committee in 1965 and served as chair of that committee from 1981 to 1984.

Following his retirement from the Senate, Tower was appointed by President Ronald Reagan in 1985 to serve as a member of the United States arms negotiation team in Geneva. He also served as chair of a commission that investigated the Iran Contra scandal and as chair of President George H. W. Bush's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board. Tower's career was shortened by his untimely death in a plane crash in 1991.

*-Kathryn Stallard*

## Baylor University

This fall is full of exciting happenings at the Poage Legislative Library. This semester, we opened a yearlong exhibit, John F. Kennedy: His Life - His Presidency - His Legacy; hosted a

(Baylor University, continued from page 10)

luncheon for our friends group, The Standing Committee; and installed compact shelving.



As the 50th anniversary of the assassination of John F. Kennedy draws near, the Poage Library transformed the W.R. Poage Exhibit Gallery to honor JFK's life and legacy. The exhibit features a life-size cutout of President Kennedy next to a Kennedy Rocker where visitors can sit and have their photo

taken. The main exhibit gallery also includes a vintage-style record player playing Kennedy speeches; an original Teletype machine with both AP and UPI Teletype printouts; an "eternal" flame; and a Wall of Remembrance where visitors can post their memories of Nov. 22, 1963. There are also two iPad stands with a selection of short videos about President Kennedy's life and death.

The library foyer and book vault contain exhibits related to assassination research dating back to November 22, 1963. There are dozens of 3" glass slides from a doctor in Kansas illustrating the wounds of Texas Gov. John Connally who was sitting in front of President Kennedy. In the book vault is a display of 12 cameras like those used along the route of the motorcade near the Texas Book Depository. Each camera is identified with the name of the person who used that type camera along with a photograph taken by that camera.

Since 2004, the Poage has become a central repository for JFK assassination research materials. While many of the collections begin with an in-depth study of the assassination, much of the research branches out, examining the life of the President. Additionally, a number of our congressional collections compliment the Kennedy era allowing us to explore the policies and presidency of JFK. On November 22, we held a day-long Open House with speakers sharing their

memories of that fateful day. Other events included a visit by 55 members of COPA, the Coalition on Political Assassinations and a group of students from the Honors College prior to a presentation by Dr. Robert McClelland, one of the doctors at Parkland Hospital that fateful day.

In the exciting world of collection storage, we've installed compact shelving! Months of planning and years of fundraising culminated in new shelving by Southwest Solutions that will double our storage capacity. This is good news since currently we are processing not only the papers of former congressman Chet Edwards, but also six JFK research collections. Without the new compact storage, there would be room for these new collections.

No update would be complete without mentioning our biggest supporters, The Standing Committee. Formed in 2004, our



friends group has grown to 183 members! This fall, we honored their commitment to the Poage by hosting a luncheon at the library. The co-chairs of The Committee are Fowler West and John Dowdy. Fowler worked for Congressman Bob Poage (MC 1937-1978) in the 1960s and 70s, then with the Committee on Agriculture before being appointed to the Commodity Futures Trading Commission. John is the son of former Congressman John Dowdy, Sr. (MC 1952-1972). We continue to be encouraged by their fundraising efforts and celebrated another banner year of Poage patronage with over \$100,000 raised.

-Ben Rogers

## Dole Institute of Politics

This summer and fall have been busy for the Dole Archives! We have been hosting summer interns and researchers, opening new collections, celebrating Senator Dole's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday and the

*(Dole Institute, continued from page 11)*

Dole Institute's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and devising games for American Archives Month.

Cole Finley (University of Kansas), Tessa Klink (University of Texas at Austin), and Alex Welborn (University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee) joined us as interns for the summer. They worked putting together topic guides for History Day, an exhibit of birthday cards sent to Senator Dole, processing the Walt Riker Papers and the Dole Scrapbooks. Not only were the interns an immense help behind-the-scenes, but they also helped a great deal in directing birthday festivities for Senator Dole at the Dole Institute.

Nearly 400 visitors – including 150 children from the Boys and Girls Club of Lawrence – came to celebrate Senator Dole's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday at the Institute on July 22<sup>nd</sup>! Everyone enjoyed interactive gallery activities, making birthday buttons and cards, cake and punch, visits from Big Jay and Baby Jay (KU's mascots), putt-putting at the "Dole Hole," and a special birthday edition of children's storytime provided by the Lawrence Public Library.

Several more collections have recently been made available for research. Thanks to our interns, Tessa and Alex, the Dole Scrapbooks and Walt Riker Papers are processed with finding aids available on our website. The scrapbook collection consists of almost 50 scrapbooks that primarily document Dole's many House and Senate campaigns and trips to foreign countries. The Riker Papers, a recent gift of Senator Dole's longtime Press Secretary, depicts Riker close relationship with Dole and his responsibility to promote the Senator's public image. Additionally, Sarah D'Antonio, Archivist, has recently finished processing the Robert J. Dole Republican National Committee Chairman Papers. This collection, which documents Dole's tenure as RNC Chairman from 1971-1973 during Nixon's reelection campaign, has already been used by several researchers. Finding aids for all collections can be found at <http://dolearchivecollections.ku.edu/>.

Speaking of research, we hosted two important

researchers in September. During his visit, our Fellow, Patrick Sandman (Trinity College, University of Oxford), found a personal connection in our papers, a letter from his grandfather, a New Jersey Congressman, that supports his thesis on loyalty in the Republican Party prior to Watergate. Patrick Ojo (Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria), a travel grant awardee, was also in residence for most of the month examining U.S. support for democracy in Nigeria.

We are also recovering from an extremely active Archives Month. Dole Institute staff and students competed in trivia, games, and activities to demonstrate their archival prowess. For obvious reasons, archives staff was disqualified. With prizes of wine and ice cream on the line, competition was stiff (and maybe a little dirty), but all in all, awareness and fondness for the Dole Archives increased and we are all eagerly anticipating next October.

- Sarah D'Antonio

## Arlen Specter Center

*Single Bullet: Inaugural exhibition of the Arlen Specter Center for Public Policy at Philadelphia University*

In July, 2010, the Paul J. Gutman Library of Philadelphia University received the surprising news that Senator Arlen Specter was donating his voluminous archive of papers, memorabilia, and videos to our institution. As a small academic library with a tiny special collections staff, this presented many challenges, as well as exciting opportunities. Thanks to a generous PNC Foundation grant, one such opportunity became a major university project and exhibition: *Single Bullet: Arlen Specter and the Warren Commission Investigation of the JFK Assassination*.

Opening on Oct. 21<sup>st</sup> on three floors of the Gutman Library, the inaugural exhibition of the [Arlen Specter Center for Public Policy at Philadelphia University](#) features the work of Philadelphia University architecture, graphic design and law and society students and faculty members. Staff

(Arlen Specter Center, continued from page 12)

from Library and Design Center also collaborated on the project. The exhibition includes documents and photos from the archives donated by the late Senator, whose work on the Warren Commission inspired the collaborative project. Specter, who served in the U.S. Senate for 30 years, was an assistant counsel on the Commission which investigated the assassination of President Kennedy. The exhibition, which runs through April 11, 2014, coincides with the 50th anniversary of the assassination, a dark time in U.S. history which continues to evoke controversy over the Warren Commission finding that one shooter, Lee Harvey Oswald, was responsible for the killing of Kennedy. Specter was a major advocate of the single bullet theory which provided the foundation for a major conclusion of the Warren Commission.

Architecture students working on the exhibition created a life-size, three-dimensional model of the Presidential limousine, and visitors can occupy Kennedy's seat to view where the bullets were purported to hit. They also designed and built a model of Dealey Plaza in Dallas, the site of the assassination. The exhibition focuses on Specter's role on the Warren Commission, detailing his meticulous investigation which led to development of the controversial single bullet theory. Also on display is an Earl Warren and Arlen Specter-signed "rolling reader," coming from the building where Lee Harvey Oswald is said to have shot Kennedy. For more detail, read the *Philadelphia Inquirer* story [here](#).

Library Director Karen Albert, was principal investigator on the project, and she, along with Associate Director Stan Gorski, Archivist Jenny Barr, and Project Manager, Elizabeth Lewis, contributed research, writing and editing of the extensive text-based script. They also provided design and content input alongside the creative team of 20 students and four faculty members. Sarah Moore, Design Center Curator, participated on the team as well and oversaw exhibit installation.

Numerous tour groups and many individuals have already visited the exhibition, with two television and one radio station providing coverage to be aired the week of November 22<sup>nd</sup>.



The exhibition is open to the public 9-5, Monday through Friday. For further information or scheduling of tours, call 215-951-0489 or email [spectercenter@philau.edu](mailto:spectercenter@philau.edu)

- Karen Albert