



# Congressional Papers Roundtable

## NEWSLETTER

Society of American Archivists

March 2005

### From the Chair

Naomi Nelson

This is turning out to be another busy year. Your steering committee is taking a look at some housekeeping issues. We expect to propose a few tweaks to the by-laws to put them in line with what we are currently doing. We will put these updates before members by the annual meeting. Katie Senft has made sure that our membership list is accurate and complete and has compiled some statistics on our membership. Work continues on the *Guidelines for Congressional Papers Repositories* under the guidance of Jeff Suchanek and Rebecca Melvin Johnson.

Karen Paul is heading up a task force to plan a pre-conference for the 2006 meeting in Washington, DC. This program will allow administrators and staffers from congressional offices to join archivists in a discussion of how to manage and provide access to congressional collections. If you are interested in contributing ideas for the program or in helping with arrangements, please contact Karen at [Karen\\_Paul@sec.senate.gov](mailto:Karen_Paul@sec.senate.gov).

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### Annual Congressional Papers Roundtable Meeting

*SAA Conference, Boston, MA August 5, 2004*

#### Preliminary Business:

CPR Chair Rebecca Johnson Melvin opened the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Katie Senft, CPR newsletter co-editor, announced that beginning with the next issue of the newsletter CPR would no longer be distributing paper copies to roundtable members. Currently, CPR membership is at 215, of which 159 are SAA or institutional members. She passed out an address list so members who were present could make updates.

Elaine Engst, SAA Council Representative, asked for any items that she could refer to the leadership. Rebecca requested a return to two-hour meeting slots, on par with time allotted section meetings.

Rebecca thanked Sarah Keen

for her work on the CPR Web page (<http://www.archivists.org/saagroups/cpr/index.asp>).

Sarah announced that the CPR Web page now lists the steering committee members, bylaws, and past issues of the newsletter. There is also a list of grants and fellowships which Sarah thanked Jean Bischoff for compiling, a listing of projects and publications, task forces, and reference works, such as Jim Cartwright's bibliography. Sarah put out a call for any additions and enhancements and welcomed a review of the contents and structure. (Note: The new CPR Web liaison is Robin Reeder of the Office of History and Preservation, HR.)

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## From the Chair (cont. from page 1)

Katie Senft and Glenn Gray have again produced an impressive newsletter. Please be thinking about news to send for the July issue. Robin Reeder is doing a great job of keeping our Web site up-to-date. I am grateful for her enthusiasm.

There will be ample opportunity to catch up with colleagues and to learn more about congressional papers at the 2005 SAA Annual Meeting in New Orleans. I'm pleased to announce that we will have two hours for our roundtable meeting this year. The additional 30 minutes will allow us to have a full meeting that allows for both roundtable business and a program. We will meet on Wednesday, August 17, from 5:00 to 7:00.

## CPR Meeting Minutes (cont. from page 1)

Kathy Marquis, one of the program co-chairs for SAA in New Orleans '05, made an announcement regarding session proposals and reviewed the issue of section/ roundtable endorsements.

Karen Paul, Senate Historical Office, reported on a meeting of the Association of Centers for the Study of Congress (ACSC) that was held at the Woodrow Wilson Center May 5-6, 2004. Thirty out of the initial thirty-four members participated and bylaws were adopted.

There were a number of interesting presentations, including one by Rep. Lee Hamilton, and another by Don Wolfenberger, Nancy Beck Young, and Lawrence Dodd on trends and scholarship. They hope to publish the proceedings. There was a presentation of the "Foundations of Freedom" interactive DVD, a project developed by Wheeling Jesuit University in West Virginia. It is available for free and geared to high school students. ACSC has a Web site at [www.congresscenters.org/](http://www.congresscenters.org/) and there are 3 criteria for membership.

The ACSC provides an opportunity for the different centers to share and build on each other's strengths. Those interested in applying are encouraged to contact Dr. Ray Smock at the Byrd Center. This effort is the culmination of many years of work involving input from both CPR and the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress.

Jean Bischoff is working with Bill Meneray to arrange for a tour of the Special Collections at Tulane University earlier that day. Tulane holds the papers of Hale Boggs, Lindy Boggs, F. Edward Hebert, and Bob Livingston. After the CPR meeting later that afternoon, those who are interested can continue their conversations over dinner in the French Quarter. Please plan to join us for the tour, the meeting, and dinner. There will be opportunities later this spring to sign up for the tour and to reserve a spot for the Dutch-treat dinner. On behalf of the steering committee, I'd like to thank Jean and Bill for organizing the tour and dinner. *Laissez les bons temps rouler!*

The next ACSC meeting will be held in early May 2005 in Washington, D.C.

### **Program:**

Rebecca Johnson Melvin moderated a panel discussion, "Getting Centered: Enhancing Institutional Profile and Prospects." The goal was to consider the archival benefits for repositories when they raise the profile of collection strengths, develop research programs, and target user groups. Panelists representing the varied institutional settings and programs included:

- Nissa Dahlin-Brown, Howard Baker Center for Public Policy, University of Tennessee
- Connie Gallagher, Special Collections Department, University of Vermont
- Karen Paul, Senate Historical Office, US Senate
- Jeff Suchanek, Wendell H. Ford Research Center and Public Policy Archives, University of Kentucky
- Jeff Thomas, John Glenn Institute for Public Services and Public Policy, Ohio State University
- Sheryl Vogt, The Richard B. Russell Library for Political Research and Studies, University of Georgia Libraries
- Tom Wilsted, Thomas J. Dodd Research Center, University of Connecticut



*CPR Annual Meeting, Boston, MA August 2004*

Connie mentioned that while he does not work at a named center, they are the only real collecting institution in the state for congressional papers, and their strategic plan calls for a congressional archivist. Highlighting this interest helps define their collecting policy and promote the material for research.

Tom stated that the Dodd Center has a separate identity as a research center in that it is housed in its own facility with one whole floor devoted to exhibits. Collecting congressional papers is part of the Dodd Center's mission.

Jeff Suchanek mentioned that they are raising money for an endowment. They have partnered with the Martin School for Public Policy.

Sheryl stated that her institution's new building, which places them next to the public policy center, gives a concrete presence to the programming and collections that the Russell Library has been building over time.

Jeff Thomas mentioned that the Glenn Institute archives are not housed in the Institute building, but that the archives has exhibit space there, using visual outreach to promote awareness of archival sources available for research.

Rebecca raised the issue of centers working to reach a younger research group. This led to a discussion of raising more awareness via "virtual" channels to successfully reach varied users and to attract funding.

Nissa mentioned the Baker Center receiving a \$6 million FIPSE grant supporting secondary education.

Sheryl spoke of partnering with campus and other groups, such as the Stennis Center, which supports programs for women in government.

A question was raised as to the extent to which collections were used. Nissa said they had 3 doctoral students in the last 6-9 months. Connie said they had had 15 Master's students and a class of students. Jeff Thomas said that the Glenn collection is still pretty new. Karen mentioned the Dirksen Center's pioneering of a teacher institute and the Humphrey Institute, which has integrated memorabilia in teaching plans for K-12 and an elder hostel plan. Students made a TV show using memorabilia, etc. Jeff Suchanek said that they were partnering with professors on working on lesson plans on Blackboard.

Nissa spoke of the Baker Center's (which in addition to Sen. Baker includes the papers of Sen. Thompson and other state and federal politicians from Tennessee) working with faculty and undergraduates to tie in documents with specific issues, such as the Clean Air Act. They also have a fellowship program, the Baker scholars, and hope to offer more in the way of research grants.

Sheryl mentioned that theirs is an older program. While they are part of the university library, they have their own entrance and have a foundation, so they have some autonomy. In addition to documenting Sen. Russell's life, they have over 100 collections (40 congressional), which include state legislators, political parties, and chapters of political groups. They have exhibit space, and are fundraising for a new building.

### **Business of the Roundtable:**

Robin Reeder of the Office of History and Preservation, HR, reported that the Office has moved and is no longer under the Legislative Resource Center. She continues to provide guidance about members' papers and participates in transition briefings on office closings. This year there are 35 House members retiring. She also reported on revisions to the research collections sections for the House member entries in the online Biographical Directory of the US Congress. Robin encourages CPR members to contact her with updates and

corrections to research collections of House members.

Karen Paul of the Senate Historical Office reported on distribution of committee and member brochures and of the advisability to write into deeds of gift the fact that committee records cannot be donated. She also reported on a possible change to the mid-1990s gift and estate tax law on split interest of gifts. This may mean that while members can't get a tax deduction they may be subject to tax on the gift.

Kate Mollan of the Center for Legislative Archives (CLA) at NARA reported on the Congressional Collections at Archival Repositories Web site available [http://www.archives.gov/records\\_of\\_congress/repository\\_collections/](http://www.archives.gov/records_of_congress/repository_collections/). Over 600 collections are listed, and it is possible to search by member's name, institution, or state. Kate encouraged anyone with additional updates to send them to her. The new CLA space which will be ready next summer will have its own meeting space and will be able to host gatherings and events if anyone is interested.

Alan Haeberle, Archivist for Senator Orrin Hatch, reported on attending the hearing for Allen Weinstein's nomination as Archivist of the United States. There were some questions about the process and Weinstein's position on Executive Orders, although the issue of his credentials was put to rest.

Rebecca Johnson Melvin thanked Beth Bower for the tour of the Moakley Archive and asked roundtable members to start thinking about ideas for the New Orleans meeting in '05.



**CPR Steering Committee:** (L-R) Back: Robin Reeder, Jeff Thomas, Dorothy Hazelrigg, Naomi Nelson, Karen Paul, Glenn Gray, Jeff Suchanek. Front: Kate Mollan, Rebecca Johnson Melvin, Liz Scott, Jan Zastrow, Alan Haeberle.

Jeff Suchanek, past CPR chair, gave a brief update on the ongoing Guidelines Task Force. As Chair of Nominations, Jeff announced that Alan Haeberle was elected as vice chair/chair elect and Jan Zastrow of the University of Hawaii and Dorothy Hazelrigg of the University of South Carolina were elected as new members of the steering committee.

Naomi Nelson, incoming chair, gave as goals for the next year continuing to work on the guidelines, a glossary of terms, enhancing the Web site, continuing to communicate with colleagues via the newsletter, and a review of the bylaws. She also welcomed any ideas for the program for next year.

Rebecca Johnson Melvin thanked the steering committee for their support in the past year and the meeting was adjourned promptly at 7 p.m.



## Society of American Archivists Annual Meeting

August 15-21, 2005  
New Orleans, LA

### Congressional Papers Roundtable Events, Wednesday August 17

Tour of Special Collections at Tulane University: time TBD

CPR Annual Meeting: 5:00 to 7:00

Dinner in the French Quarter: 7:00



# Institutional News

## Center for Legislative Archives

### Records of the 9/11 Commission arrive at the Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)

The National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (the 9/11 Commission) went out of business on August 20 and transferred its records to the Center for Legislative Archives at the end of September. Staff at the Center have been busy processing the records, which are closed to the public until January 2009, according to the Commission's access policy. In addition, because the Commission was part of the legislative branch, its records are not subject to the Freedom of Information Act.

The records pose challenges in terms of processing, preserving, and providing for their eventual access. They exist in many different media, so other custodial units at NARA are also playing an important role in preservation. The Center for Electronic Records is preserving the large number of electronic records involved. The Special Media Archives Services Division is handling the video and audio recordings. The records include a variety of paper, special media, and electronic documents representing source material from various government agencies, as well as the work of the 9/11 Commissioners and their staff. Thousands of source documents have been scanned into PDF form in a document management system, which was also transferred to NARA. Other source material includes: digitally recorded audio interviews of emergency response workers, and others involved in the 9/11 tragedy; digitally recorded video of the

official Commission proceedings; transcripts of interviews with government officials; flight tracking data from September 11; and a large body of e-mail messages reflecting both the internal messages of the Commission and e-mail sent from the public.

The Commission has released through its Web site many supplemental documents, including staff statements, witness statements, transcripts, and press releases. NARA will continue to provide public access to the Commission's Web site for all of these publicly released records. The frozen Web site is found at [www.9-11commission.gov](http://www.9-11commission.gov).



## Updates and Additions to the Congressional Collections Website Sought

The Center for Legislative Archives, which maintains the Congressional Collections at Archival Institutions online index at [http://www.archives.gov/records\\_of\\_congress/repository\\_collections/index.html](http://www.archives.gov/records_of_congress/repository_collections/index.html) seeks updates and additions to the list. This list is an important resource for locating congressional papers and finding aids that are online. If your institution provides some online information about specific congressional collections please email Kate Mollan at [Katherine.mollan@nara.gov](mailto:Katherine.mollan@nara.gov) with the name of your repository, the name of the current or former member of Congress whose papers are held, the body of Congress in which the member served, the member's service dates, the member's home state, the URL for your repository, and the URL for any online finding aids.

*Katherine Mollan*

## Louisiana State University

Phyllis Kinnison has joined the staff of the Political Papers Unit of the Louisiana State University (LSU) Libraries Special Collections. She will begin the processing of Senator John Breaux's papers, which were recently donated to LSU.

Phyllis is a 2004 graduate of the School of Library and Information Science at LSU. She can be reached at 225-578-6529 or [pcasti1@lsu.edu](mailto:pcasti1@lsu.edu).

*Faye Phillips*

## University of Hawaii at Manoa Library

### *Papers of Hawaii Senator Spark Matsunaga*

The Hawaii Congressional Papers Collection at the University of Hawaii Library is happy to announce the completion of the processing of the papers of former Hawaii senator Spark M. Matsunaga. The collection measures 908 linear feet.

Spark Matsunaga (1916-1990) served in the US House of Representatives (1963-1976) and the US Senate (1977-1990). He started his political career as an assistant public prosecutor in Honolulu (1952-1954), was a Representative in the Territory of Hawaii Legislature (1954-1959), worked tirelessly for Hawaii statehood, and was also a lawyer in private practice. He served in the US Army, in the famed 100th Infantry Battalion during WWII, receiving the Bronze Star and two Purple Hearts.

The bulk of the collection dates from Matsunaga's years in Congress and includes correspondence, photographs, audiovisual items, and memorabilia. Most of the material relates to

Matsunaga's activities supporting his interest in peace, space exploration, veterans, transportation, taxation, health, natural resources, and civil rights, especially redress for Japanese Americans interned in WWII.

Matsunaga enjoyed public speaking and the collection has copies of his many speeches. There are files on the two books he wrote, *Rulemakers of the House* and *The Mars Project*. His personal life is well represented in documents, photographs, and memorabilia from childhood, years at the University of Hawaii and Harvard Law School, election campaigns, and hobbies such as playing the harmonica and writing poetry.

For more information please contact Processing Archivist Ellen Chapman at [ellen@hawaii.edu](mailto:ellen@hawaii.edu) or visit the Hawaii Congressional Papers Web site at [libweb.hawaii.edu/libdept/congressional/index.htm](http://libweb.hawaii.edu/libdept/congressional/index.htm).

*Ellen Chapman*

## Central Valley Political Archive

The Central Valley Political Archive (CVPA) of the Henry Madden Library, California State University, Fresno, is pleased to announce the acquisition of the papers of former congressmen Cal Dooley and Rick Lehman.

Dooley served as a Democrat in the House of Representatives from 1990 to 2004. Dooley's papers document his legislative activities on issues such as agriculture, international trade, and water issues such as CALFED. Dooley was a co-founder and co-chair of the New Democrat Coalition, a centrist faction among Members of the House of Representatives dedicated to finding bipartisan solutions to the nation's problems, in addition to

being a co-founder of the Western Water Caucus. Rick Lehman was elected as a Democrat to the House of Representative in 1982 and served until 1994. He was successful in carrying legislation establishing the national status of the Mono Lake Basin National Forest Scenic Area as well as wild and scenic river protection for the Tuolumne and Kings rivers. His congressional papers document these efforts, in addition to his work on the California Desert Wilderness Act, the prohibition of expansion of dams in Yosemite National Park, and clarifying the title to land along the California-Nevada border.

*Glenn Gray*

## **Richard B. Russell Library for Political Research and Studies**

### *Iris F. Blicht Papers, ca. 1930 - 1985 (bulk 1954-1962)*

The Richard B. Russell Library for Political Research and Studies, the University of Georgia, is pleased to announce the opening of the congressional papers of Iris Faircloth Blicht. In 1954, Democratic national committeewoman and three-time member of the Georgia State Legislature, Iris Blicht, announced her candidacy for Congress. After conducting a grass-roots campaign, Blicht became the first woman ever elected from Georgia to serve a full term in Congress.

The Iris F. Blicht Papers document her two terms representing Georgia's Eighth District from 1955 to 1963, and, to a lesser extent, her personal life. Well-documented throughout the entire collection, particularly in the Legislative and Subject Series, are the issues that were important to Blicht and to the twenty counties that composed the Eighth District, including agriculture and environmental issues. Bills sponsored or supported by Blicht include: Jekyll Island Authority, Bridge Authority, The Minimum Authority, forestry development, anti-subversive activities, improved drug laws, livestock sales, and benefits to beekeepers. Additionally, the papers provide insight into the political climate for women in the second half of the 1950s and the early 1960s, as well as into social mores regarding their participation. As one of only 15 female members (and the only

"southerner") in the House of Representatives in 1958, the challenges faced by Blicht and other females in Washington, as well as the public's perceptions, are recorded throughout the papers, mainly in feature newspaper articles and interviews. Blicht's personal beliefs and opinions regarding women's roles and responsibilities in government and politics are evident in the speeches and interviews. To a lesser extent, and primarily through correspondence found in the Personal Series, is information relating to her immediate and extended family as well as her fragile health, which ultimately forced her retirement in 1963. Correspondents include the following Georgia politicians: D.W. Brooks, Phil Campbell, John J. Flynt, Jr., E.L. Forrester, Ed Friend, Henderson L. Lanham, Herman E. Talmadge, John Leonard Pilcher, Prince Preston, and Richard B. Russell, Jr.

To view the finding aid for the papers or to learn more about the collections, programs, and services of the Russell Library, please visit the Library Web site at <http://www.libs.uga.edu/russell>. For information contact the Russell Library at 706-542-5788 or [russlib@uga.edu](mailto:russlib@uga.edu).

*Mary McKay*

## **University of Rhode Island Library**

### *Political Papers of John H. Chafee*

The University of Rhode Island Library, Special Collections is pleased to announce the completion of the processing of the senatorial papers of John H. Chafee.

The department has processed and made available for research over 1,200 linear feet of John H. Chafee's political papers. The records were received from 1993 to 2001. The papers consist of two specific bodies of records. The first group of records, MSG 114, consists of his papers as Governor of Rhode Island (1962-1968), Secretary of Navy (1969-1972), Senate Campaign 1972, and Personal Papers (1973-1976). The second group of

records, MSG 115, consists of his papers as United States Senator from Rhode Island (1976-1999).

The senatorial papers, consisting of 1,025 linear feet, were received from Chafee's Providence and Washington senate offices in approximately 45 accessions between June 1994 and March 2001. The register for his senatorial papers will be mounted on the Special Collections Web site ([www.uri.edu/library/special\\_collections/political\\_papers\\_list.htm](http://www.uri.edu/library/special_collections/political_papers_list.htm)) in March 2005.

*David Maslyn*



## Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University

### *Records of the Congressional Black Caucus*

The Moorland-Spingarn Research Center (MSRC) is pleased to announce the recent acquisition of the second installation of the Records of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC). The second installation contains the administrative files of the outgoing CBC Chair, Congressman Elijah Cummings (D-MD). These materials reflect the continuing mission of this Caucus to serve as the conscience of the Congress, and to fight to include African Americans and all people of color in the public policy debate that so deeply affects their lives.

The formal relationship between MSRC and CBC was launched in 1983, when CBC and Howard University entered into an agreement establishing the CBC Archives at MSRC. This agreement was the culmination of events that began in 1974 when MSRC sent out letters to African American members of Congress soliciting their personal papers. Later, the discussion expanded to include the possibility of establishing a CBC Archives. Congressman Parren Mitchell wrote to each CBC member in 1978 encouraging such a relationship, and in 1983, Congressmen Mitchell and Mervyn Dymally signed the formal agreement. One month later, the first installation of CBC records was transferred to Howard University. Consisting of 116 boxes of administrative files from the Office of the Executive Director, the collection includes correspondence, press releases, photographs, committee reports, minutes, speeches, printed programs, financial records, and various publications generated by the CBC and the Foundation. A CBC Foundation intern began the inventory of the collection, later completed by MSRC staff.

The first installation of CBC Archives represents a unique source of primary materials documenting the activities of the CBC during a pivotal period in US political history, roughly 1974-1980, when the issues of enforcement of domestic civil rights legislation and human rights, particularly

in Africa, were being addressed by black congressional representatives with zeal and courage. As a result of the establishment of the CBC Archives, the MSRC acquired the personal papers of several Congressmen, including Charles C. Diggs, Jr., William L. Dawson, George C. Crockett, Jr., and Bennett M. Stewart. These collections total more than 1,400 linear feet and contain one-of-a-kind primary source materials that are accessible to researchers throughout the world.



*The First Colored Senator & Representatives.  
Published by Currier and Ives, 1872.*

The MSRC has a long tradition of acquiring Congressional papers. Long before the establishment of the Congressional Black Caucus, Howard University obtained the papers of the Reconstruction congressmen Blanche K. Bruce and James T. Rapier, and the elected, but unseated, PBS. Pinchback, as well as scrapbooks compiled by John Mercer Langston during the Reconstruction Era.

*The Manuscript Division of MSRC holds over 600 collections of the papers of individuals and records of nearly 100 organizations. These collections provide extensive documentation of the history and culture of peoples of African descent in Africa, the Americas and other parts of the world. Please visit our Web site at <http://www.howard.edu/library/moorland-spingarn>.*

*Joellen ElBashir, Curator*

## University of West Florida

### *Papers of Congressman Robert LF Sikes*

Special Collections and West Florida Archives Department, University of West Florida Library, has received the papers of former Congressman Robert L. F. Sikes. Bob Sikes was elected to Congress in 1940, and re-elected nineteen times until his retirement on January 3, 1979. He was instrumental in the development and expansion of military facilities along the Gulf Coast, including Eglin Air Force Base, Hurlburt Field (home of Special Forces), environmental protection (creation of Gulf Islands National Seashore), and related Florida issues. The roughly 260 cubic feet collection adds to the Department's holdings, which include

the records of his successor, Congressman Earl Hutto, who served 1979-1994.

The Sikes papers include correspondence and records, photographs, audiotapes, videotapes, and other materials covering Sikes professional and personal life in Crestview, Florida after his retirement. Sikes' sister-in-law, the court-appointed executor of his estate, donated the collection. The vast collections of antique guns and game trophies, along with military models, were previously disposed of at auction.

*Dean DeBolt*

## Boise State University Library

An audio recording of the Idaho State Society's celebration of the centennial of Senator William E. Borah's birth has been donated to the Special Collections Department of the Boise State University Library. The program was held in the Senate Reception Room in the US Capitol on Borah's 100th birthday (June 29, 1965) and featured remarks by Idaho's then-US Senators Frank Church

and Len B. Jordan, Senator Everett McKinley Dirksen (Ill.), former Senator Gerald P. Nye (ND), Dr. Marian McKenna, Borah's biographer, and Wade Fleetwood, president of the Idaho State Society. The event was originally tape-recorded by Mr. Fleetwood, who presented a CD copy to the library.

*Alan Virta*

## Society of Southwest Archivists Meeting

Baton Rouge, LA, May 16-28, 2005

### **Friday May 27, 2005**

#### ***Acquiring Political Papers and Donor Relations, 10:00–11:30***

This session will examine the unique challenges associated with acquiring political papers and working with donors of political papers. Pati Threatt will lead the session. Presenters are:

#### **Brady Banta, The Mike Beebe Papers**

The presentation will concentrate on the processing of an Arkansas State Senator's papers. This individual, Mike Beebe, served in the senate from 1983 through 2002. Subsequently he has been elected attorney general and is considered by many political pundits to be a likely candidate for governor in 2006. He emerged as an influential senator during Bill Clinton's tenure as governor and was a powerful legislative leader from at least the mid 1980s until he left office in 2002.

#### **Ramona Hutchinson, The Senator Jack Brooks Papers**

The presenter will discuss problems concerning the lack of a deed of gift for the papers.

#### **Pati Threatt, The Southwest Louisiana Legislative Delegation Archives**

The presenter will give an overview of the SWLA Legislative Delegation Archives project, which includes acquiring manuscripts, overseeing a lecture series, and an oral history project. The project is unique in that others (outside of the archives) instigated it and work as volunteers to ensure its success. The presentation will explore the problems and opportunities of educating outsiders in the work of archivists.



**Chuck Wilson, The California Political Papers Consortium**

The presenter will discuss the role of the consortium, which includes both public and private institutions and organizations throughout the state, the development of the consortium and cooperative standards for the collection of political papers within California.

***Processing and Outreach for Political Papers Collections, 3:30-5:00***

This session will examine the unique challenges associated with processing political papers collections and outreach for the collections. Erin Lawrimore will lead the session. Presenters are:

**Bernard Forrester, The Barbara Jordan Archives**

The presenter will discuss the challenges of processing and maintaining a high profile Political collection without full support of the institution and the knowledge of what is contained in the papers - How it was done and who did it? What are the significant pieces in the Archives? Do any have special meaning or show certain things in the persona of the subject?

**Erin Lawrimore, Political Papers Archivist and Bobby Holt, Modern Political Collections Archivist, Building a D.C. Connection: The Howard Baker Center and the University Libraries at the University of Tennessee**

The Howard Baker Center and the University of Tennessee Libraries are partners in an effort to create the preeminent political archives in Tennessee. The Modern Political Library & Archives (MPLA) solicits and collects materials from political leaders of Tennessee, major associates of those leaders and other individuals or groups who have had a major impact on Tennessee during the modern era (1945-present). The presenters will discuss the relationship between the Baker Center and the University Libraries, as well as the outreach activities of the Baker Center.

**Carol Martin, Processing Presidential Papers and other related programs at the Truman Library**

The Harry S. Truman Presidential Library is still adding new collections to its holdings. There are many unique problems associated with presidential records of a certain era. The library makes some use of volunteers and interns where possible in the process. We also use press releases, press conferences and public programs, where possible, in connection with an opening.

**Danelle Moon, Congressional Papers: A Case for New Appraisal Strategies**

The SJSU legislative archive is a small but growing collection of local State and Congressional representatives' records and mayoral records. The size of these collections and the potential content restrictions require careful appraisal standards, particularly with case files and constituent records. The presenter will discuss some of the problems and solutions in the appraisal and arrangement and description of legislative archives, with a specific focus on constituent records and sampling analysis.

**Saturday, May 28, 8:00 am**

***"Gumbo Republic: Louisiana's Extraordinary Politics"***

**Dr. Wayne Parent, Associate Professor and Chair, Dept. of Political Science, LSU**

In the popular American imagination, Louisiana may come closer than any other state to offering the experience of a foreign culture—a Spanish-moss-draped netherland filled with friendly but somewhat mysterious Cajuns, seething creature-infested swamps, the whirling masked chaos of Mardi Gras, seductive N'awlins cadences, and most vividly, the train wreck of Louisiana politics: cash-under-the-table shenanigans, fat-and-sassy environmental polluters, devil-and-the-deep-blue-sea electoral choices like the 1991 gubernatorial runoff between the Klan-tainted David Duke and the criminally indicted Edwin Edwards. Wayne Parent sees all of this clearly with both an entertainer's eye and a social scientist's rigor. A native of Baton Rouge, Parent is a frequent commentator on national and Louisiana politics for the local, state, and national media and specializes in electoral coalitions, black politics and Southern politics. (excerpted from LSU Press catalog for his new book, *Inside the Carnival: Unmasking Louisiana Politics.*)

## Federal Team Reviews Henry M. Jackson Papers

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The University of Washington Special Collections Division was visited by a team of federal agents, led by the CIA, the week of February 7 to review the Henry M. Jackson papers for classified material.

The team consisted of five people who worked in the Jackson papers for three days. The team that visited was treated as much as possible like regular users. The boxes they needed were pulled and brought to the reading room and each person used one box at a time. One variation on our regular practice was to allow them to retrieve the boxes from a truck parked in the reading room themselves, rather than requesting each box. They marked off each box as it was reviewed.

Over a three-day period, the team looked at around 400 boxes from a collection of about 1,200 boxes. Referencing this volume of material put a lot of pressure on our student and reference staff.

The team removed a total of eight documents. Each removed item was replaced with a removal form, which indicated the type of document

removed, (memo, correspondence, report, etc.), date, number of pages, author or correspondents, and why the document was removed. The documents are with the University of Washington's Facility Security Officer, and are being submitted with a request for declassification to the appropriate agency.

This visit was apparently prompted by the return of a document we submitted for declassification ten years ago. That document was returned last summer, and shortly thereafter we had a visit from a CIA staff member. He discovered one classified document left in the Jackson papers, thus prompting a team visit. We were furnished with a list of boxes to be reviewed ahead of time. On the whole we found this team to be professional and accommodating. Besides the CIA, DOD, and DOE, there was a staff member from the Information Security Oversight Office on the team. They did redact several documents on site, which meant we did not have to pull those items.

*Carla Rickerson, Head of Special Collections Division  
Allen Library, University of Washington*

## Ready to Talk: Political Scientists and Congressional Archivists

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Roundtable members will recall that in 2004 we received an exciting invitation from two enthusiastic political scientists to begin a dialog with them about the research potential of congressional collections for their discipline. What archivist would not be thrilled to hear from a potential user asking to be shown the light of our shining resources? Further, what archivist would not jump at the chance to listen to a researcher describe what they're looking for, and where and how they've tried to find it? Political scientists Sean Kelly and Scott Frisch have approached us for a reference interview in reverse. The conversation we hope to have with this team over the next few years may yield new directions in outreach, appraisal decisions, and descriptive practices with congressional collections.

Dialog began in earnest last year after Kelly attended the May meeting of the Association of Centers for the Study of Congress (ACSC) and

contributed an article to our July 2004 newsletter. I was pleased to be a part of the continuing conversation as a panelist at the 36th Annual Meeting of the Northeastern Political Science Association in Boston on November 12, 2004. Sean Kelly (Niagra University) and Scott Frisch (California State University – Channel Islands) convened and moderated the panel, “Congressional Archives as an Untapped Data Source.” Speaking of their experiences with congressional research were three other political scientists: Douglas Harris (Loyola College, Maryland), Charles Stewart (MIT), and Julian Zelizer (Boston University). On the archival front, Beth Ann Bower from nearby Suffolk University described collection contents, public programming, classroom outreach, and the recent opening of the Joe Moakley archives at her institution. Jessica Kratz, a political scientist and archivist from the Center for Legislative Archives,

spoke about National Archives and Record Administration's (NARA) role in preserving and promoting access to the official records of Congress. I represented my academic repository's experience holding congressional papers as one of many topical strengths in a diverse special collections department. But primarily I represented the CPR to speak on behalf of our strong professional network of archivists and others interested in the preservation and management of congressional papers and records.

The political scientists spoke first; it was "their" conference, after all. The design of the session, to advocate archival research by political scientists, was predicated on the assumption that they are not experienced with it. Kelly described standard research strategies for political scientists as survey research or analysis of roll call votes – finding things to count. The point gave me pause to consider the obvious – that political scientists are looking for the science in their subject – for objective information to **quantify** and analyze. Stewart noted that political science needed refreshment, that the discipline needed new evidence and new data, thus the interest in congressional collections as sources offering new data sets. Another session I attended also advocated archival research for the opportunity to **qualify** data with engaging narrative, more in the line of historical accounts. Zelizer, author of several recent books on Congress, said he believed interest in politics and congressional history was picking up across disciplines, and that he appreciated the results of archival research to supplement the traditional methodology of political science. A paper on "House Majority Party Leaders' Uses of Public Opinion Information" by Harris – who has used collections at the Dirksen Center, the Carl Albert Center, the Burns Library at Boston College, Texas Christian University and Washington State University – was highly commended for its contextual and anecdotal use of data, in contrast to the sharp criticism given two other papers at a session on party government in the US House of Representatives. The moderator of that session critiqued the charts and numbers of the two "lesser" papers as "tired and dull" and hardly readable in contrast to Harris' paper. (Ouch. Political

science conferences are very different from archival meetings.)

All of the political scientists spoke appreciatively about their personal encounters with "helpful," "interested" archivists, not realizing that the public service ethic is so closely tied to who we are and what we do. Some of their other comments were not necessarily new to our archival ears, but instructive in that we need to continue addressing ongoing complaints about the nature of archival work in managing congressional collections. They spoke about the decentralized nature of congressional papers, not only in terms of geographic dispersion, but also in terms of being separate from comparative or complementary executive and presidential sources. The growth of the ACSC can help us answer this concern. The panelists also commented on unsupported collections that have "no home," such as records of the Democratic Study Group, something for us to consider in terms of documentation strategies.

They all commented on the volume of the collections. The first speaker described 90% of any given collection useless to the point of his research, but necessary to wade through for the serendipitous nugget that enriched his argument. In good-natured contrast, the second speaker ventured that perhaps 80% of what he'd seen *was* valuable, though other times he found what he wanted to see was no longer available. A focused discussion with political scientists might give archivists new insights on appraisal practices in certain series of congressional papers, and careful user surveys might help us identify new uses for undervalued collection contents.

Other concerns of the political scientists presented professional stereotypes that we can only hope to dispel: experiences with unprocessed, closeted, dusty collections untouched by archivists or researchers, suggesting physical and intellectual neglect for the potential content of these sources. The issue of restrictions came up and one researcher surprisingly admitted that he had been granted access to contemporary committee records as a result of personally approaching a sitting chair. The political scientists acknowledged the richness of the source material for supporting personal engagement

with their research topics, and it is this enjoyment that seems to drive the crusade of Kelly and Frisch to broaden support for archival research in political papers. They described what we know – that these collections can reveal personal aspects of the legislators, that they aptly illustrate relations between the branches of government, that they explain the mechanics of Congress, that they reflect the contributions of numerous staff and the operations of an office, and that they show the success or failure of district offices to communicate between constituents and the Hill.

I think I can speak for Bower and Kratz to say that we thoroughly enjoyed the invitation and the opportunity to participate on this panel. Following the panel, Bower led everyone to Suffolk University, two blocks away, and graciously hosted a tour of the Moakley archives. This repository visit beautifully underscored the welcoming message that all archivists want to make to political scientists as future researchers. Kratz and Richard Hunt, Director of the Center for Legislative Archives, will be working with Kelly on the next step forward, a “short course” on archival research for political scientists, as a preconference workshop for the August 2005 American Political Science Association in Washington, D.C.

The opportunity to talk with political scientists as “our constituents” was invaluable. I hope that members of the Roundtable will pursue future outreach opportunities by such cross-disciplinary

## Reappraising Congressional Papers

The bulk problem inherent in Congressional papers dates back at least to the early twentieth century. As an aide to Senator Miles Poindexter wrote in 1922, “The Senator has been in and out for the last two weeks and loading me up anywhere from 70 to 125 pages of dictation every time he comes in. With the telephones combined and department letters I don't know whether I will live through it or not.” The resulting papers got filed, in sequences that have perplexed archivists and researchers for over a half-century, first at the University of Virginia and then, after 1985, at the University of Washington. Two finding aids had to be consulted to determine content

programs, at SAA annual or other regional meetings. I hope that we can consider designing new user surveys and expand on our previous work with documentation strategies. What do you think?

L. Rebecca Johnson Melvin  
University of Delaware Library

### Suggested readings:

*The American Congress: the building of democracy.*  
Julian E. Zelizer, editor. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2004.

*The democratic experiment: new directions in American political history* / edited by Meg Jacobs, William J. Novak, and Julian E. Zelizer. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, c2003.

Stewart, Charles Haines. *Budget reform politics: the design of the appropriations process in the House of Representatives, 1865-1921.* Cambridge [England]; New York: Cambridge University Press, 1989.

Zelizer, Julian E. *Taxing America: Wilbur D. Mills, Congress, and the state, 1945-1975.* Cambridge, UK; New York: Cambridge University Press, 1998.

\_\_\_\_\_. *On Capitol Hill: the struggle to reform Congress and its consequences, 1948-2000.* Cambridge, UK; New York: Cambridge University Press, 2004.

and box/folder location. Hoping to eliminate some of this confusion before I retired, I took another look at the Poindexter Papers. We had reprocessed only one large series (III) with the help of an archives intern shortly after receiving the papers from Virginia. What other series (apparently numbered by the preparers for the microfilming project at the U. of Virginia in 1946-47) might be tackled to reveal the rich content?

Legislation seemed a good choice, so another intern from the Western Washington University (WWU) program in archives management tackled them and was joined by a volunteer. They re-titled

many files for greater clarity but they eliminated very little except for duplicate items. In Miscellaneous Correspondence, we identified duplicates, requests (for government publications, flags, and seeds), quasi-case files (as veterans seeking pensions), and patronage requests (for postmaster appointments) to weed from Series V. We did similar work with part of Series VI, which had such intriguing headings as Anti-Strike, Bolshevism, League of Nations, and Rainier National Park. Headings like Appointments cried out for weeding, and much was discarded from these patronage files. We retained correspondence about high-level appointments, such as federal judgeships, territorial governors, ambassadors/ministers, and Cabinet members. Substantial bulk reduction was achieved for both series.

Congressional papers of Mike Lowry, who represented the 7th District of Washington (central Seattle) in the 1980s, presented somewhat different appraisal issues. Legislation apparently was rolled into conglomerate Issue Files, kept by Lowry's staff. The archives intern and I rounded these up from the widely scattered places where they occurred, and she got them re-folded, re-titled, and dated. Other record series were weeded of duplicates, but bulk reduction still seemed possible. Deciding to let researchers rely on Lowry's schedules to show which events he attended, I discarded invitations in toto.

The big appraisal elephant, however, was constituent correspondence. Convinced that letters of ordinary citizens to their Congressman are a rich source of historical evidence, I probed to find a way to save a good sample of the roughly 100 cartons of it. Aided by still another WWU grad student, I explored the two main sequences, coded and uncoded. Numeric codes, in the early days of office automation, represented topics. Civil Rights is subdivided into such subtopics as Japanese American Redress, Gay Rights, and Indian Tribal Sovereignty. These many folders of constituent letters are then grouped by year. Since the bulk generally was not

great, we usually kept them intact but re-folded them. The topic with the largest volume of letters was the court-ordered divestiture of AT&T. This issue had no great significance to Lowry's district; rather it was a national issue that provoked much mail. Due to the large amount of nearly identical letters (pressure mail) involved, a ruthless retention formula was applied to them. Six cartons were reduced to two file folders. In other cases where the folder was more than one inch thick, we sampled and indicated the rough percentage we had retained.

The outgoing letters sent in response to this constituent mail were called 'robos.' Lowry's office used two different document identification-numbering schemes for these form letters during his time in office. The first scheme ran from 1979 to 1983. In 1983 a second scheme was started that ran to the end of his term in 1988. By listing both sets of codes in the finding aid, we hope to enable researchers to find Lowry's responses to constituents.

The uncoded mass of incoming letters, however, was daunting. It was filed in bundles for a given year and then alphabetically by personal name of author. How it differed from the coded mail is unclear. I found a letter from Charles Royer, then Mayor of Seattle, under R. Given the labor necessary to sort individual letters in approximately 50 cartons, with the donor's blessing, I opted to destroy this uncoded incoming mail. The objective of making the Lowry Papers accessible via an encoded finding aid (after 14 years of semi-accessibility) is within reach. While not perfect, the finding aid will allow researchers to navigate through approximately 50 cubic feet or less, in contrast to the original 166 cubic feet.

Processing of the Poindexter Papers has continued on a reduced scale since early 2005 following my retirement. Our efforts will have made papers of an early and of a late 20th century congressman more accessible, especially if encoded parts of the finding aids can be presented on the Web.

*Karyl Winn, retired Political Papers Curator,  
University of Washington*