



Congressional Papers Roundtable

NEWSLETTER

Society of American Archivists

Spring 2011

From the Chair: CPR 25 is BIG!

By Jill Severn

The advertising for the upcoming Society of American Archivists 75th anniversary meeting proclaims, “Make No Little Plans,” encouraging everyone to “Think Big!” As the Congressional Papers Roundtable prepares to celebrate its own significant milestone of twenty-five years of existence this August in Chicago, these exhortations seem unnecessary. CPR members have always thought and acted on a grand scale and this, our 25th year, will be no exception.

As Chair of CPR, I began the year thinking about this question—what does it mean to be a twenty-five -year-old organization? If we rely on our personal experiences of this moment, we might recall 25 as a time when we first learned to embrace independence and daring but also respect caution and responsibility. In short, we saw the world as it was and also how it might be, and we began to imagine how we might shape its future. CPR at 25 stands at roughly the same juncture—reflecting on the lessons learned from its successes and challeng-

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Archiving a Tragedy: The Rep. Gabrielle Giffords Memorial Archive

January 8, 2011 is a day that will forever be remembered by Arizonans as a day of tragedy. On that terrible day, Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords’ was hosting “Congress on your Corner,” a constituent meeting outside a local Safeway grocery store in Tucson, Arizona when a gunman opened fire. Eighteen people were shot and six individuals died. Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords was critically injured with a gunshot wound to her head. The sadness echoed across the nation and was especially poignant in Tucson.

The outpouring of love and support for the victims and their families was inspiring and healing for a community dealing with pain and confusion. Three primary vigil/memorial sites sprang up immediately: at the Safeway grocery store where the unimaginable event took place, at the University Medical Center (UMC) where victims were receiving care, and at Congresswoman Gabrielle

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CPR Candidate Election Slate

The CPR Nominations Committee, consisting of Chrystal Carpenter, Jacquelyn Sundstrand and Brian Keough, has prepared a slate of candidates for the upcoming 2011 roundtable elections. Elections will be conducted electronically through the SAA website beginning July 6 and running through July 20th.

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es, looking forward to the future, and considering how it might shape the future of congressional records keeping, archival practice, and civic life. How lucky we are to be right at the center of this significant year! In tribute to this milestone, the steering committee and I are working on several projects that honor CPR's past, acknowledge its present, and imagine its future. Here is just a taste of what is in the works at CPR central...

New Taskforces

The steering committee has commissioned two new taskforces in 2010 to address two areas of interest to CPR: documenting the history of the roundtable and developing a mechanism for measuring the needs and interests of current roundtable members.

CPR History Taskforce

The CPR History Taskforce, consisting of Rebecca Johnson Melvin, Linda Whitaker and their intern Cary Osborne, has as its charge:

- To propose guidelines and procedures for effective, comprehensive, and enduring documentation of Congressional Papers Roundtable
- To assist the program committee with development of preconference and regular meeting content related to commemoration of CPR's 25th anniversary

The CPR History Taskforce will submit a report to the Steering Committee for consideration in advance of the August meeting and the taskforce will share a brief overview of its report and activities with general members at the CPR meeting/business meeting. As part of its report, this taskforce will make a recommendation as to whether CPR should establish a subcommittee to carry this work forward. The members of this taskforce will also play a central role in the 25th anniversary preconference program.

CPR Member Survey Taskforce

As we prepare to mark our 25th anniversary, the steering committee thought it an oppor-

tune time to survey members about their current needs and interests in relation to CPR. To this end, I appointed a small taskforce to develop and administer a brief online membership survey. The committee includes, Ben Rogers, Lori Schwartz, and Debra Davendonis-Todd, and myself. The team will submit a report in advance of the August meeting and the taskforce will share a brief overview of its report and activities with general members at the CPR meeting/business meeting.

Current Taskforces Moving Forward

E-records Taskforce

CPR established the E-records Taskforce to create, introduce and publicize:

- a checklist of questions/actions that repositories should ask/take when acquiring a new congressional collection;
- a congressional collections e-records policy template that members could use as a resource in developing

their institution's own policy;

- a list of resources for advice and assistance with data recovery, migration, preservation, funding; and a bibliography of relevant literature.

Since its inception, the taskforce has made good headway in meeting this charge and plans to share the results and analysis of its survey of CPR members and a full report of its activities on the CPR Website this summer. Additionally, it will share resources for e-records via the CPR newsletter and announcements on the list serv.

Pilot Internship Program

In 2010, CPR embarked on a new pilot internship program designed to provide new members of CPR and those interested in becoming more active in the organization an opportunity to have hands-on participation in the organization's ongoing and special initiatives. Last September, CPR recruited its first group of CPR interns Shannon Lausch, Debra Davendonis-Todd, and Cary Osborne. Shannon has been an active member of the



CONGRESSIONAL PAPERS ROUNDTABLE

25! CPR

program committee who has focused on strategies to help CPR members—both new and old—to meet and connect with each other at the preconference and throughout the year. Debra has been a diligent member of the team that has crafted the CPR membership survey and will be participating in analyzing and reporting the results. Cary Osborne has joined the new history taskforce and is working closely with Linda Whitaker and Rebecca Melvin Johnson to consider how the past should figure in the present and the future of CPR programming and documentation. Cary has played a central role in the planning of the panel sessions with founders that will take place at this year's preconference. As we finish out this first year of this pilot program, we will seek feedback from all who have been involved with the program directly, and determine if it should continue and how it might be refined for the future.

New Web site

If you have visited the CPR Website recently, you have probably noticed that there have been some big changes to the design of the site. In early 2010, CPR and other SAA groups got the green light to move their Web pages into the new Drupal based Web environment developed for SAA's site as a whole. Robin Reeder, CPR's Web manager and Morgan Davis, CPR newsletter editor, with help from CPR –past-chair Linda Whitaker and I worked to plan and move all the CPR web content over to this new more robust environment by the close of 2010. Now that this basic migration is complete, the group can begin to explore what refinements or expansion to the site will be possible in this new environment. Please keep a look out for new virtual developments.

Great Slate of Candidates for election

It seems wholly appropriate that the group charged with preserving the central records of a representative government “of the people, by the people, for the people” should reflect this ethos in its elections and its operations. Therefore, it is with great satisfaction and gratitude that I am pleased to announce that my predecessor, Brian Keough and his nomination/election committee have secured an excellent slate of candidates to run in a fully contested election this year. Please do your part and vote, vote, vote!

2011 Preconference Program, CPR member meeting, and 25th Anniversary

Celebration

Mark your calendars; August 24, 2011 is a day like no other! On this day, Congressional Papers Roundtable members will gather in Chicago at Loyola University's Water Tower Campus to celebrate a major milestone in CPR's history—twenty-five years of existence! The day will be filled with panel discussions, interactive sessions, convivial networking, good food and great people. We will share full details of the day, directions to the venue, and registration materials in early June via the CPR listserv the CPR Web site. In the mean time, here is a sampling of what is in store...

Twenty-five years is big! All of the members of the CPR program committee (Shannon Lausch, Jill Severn, Lori Schwartz, Linda Whitaker, Betsy Pittman, and Kathy Young) realized this fact and dove into the work of planning the preconference program, member meeting, and celebration with great gusto. Kathy Young, Archivist for Political Collections at Loyola University-Chicago, has been an amazing local arrangements liaison extraordinaire. She has arranged for CPR to have its preconference program, member meeting, and celebration in a lovely facility on Loyola's Water Tower Campus, just a short distance from the SAA conference hotel. Kathy will share some of the wonderful materials in her collections with CPR members in one of the preconference program sessions.

Taking our cue from SAA's 360-degree approach to its meeting, the program committee for CPR has designed a day of events that honor the past, acknowledge the present, and imagine the future. We will kick off the program with two morning sessions focused on the history of CPR from its founding through the present. In each session a moderator will lead a discussion with two groups of panelists who have been at the center of CPR's founding (Lydia Lucas, Connie Gallagher, and Cynthia Pease Miller) and subsequent development (Karen Paul, Sheryl Vogt, and Herb Hartsook). The program committee has developed these two sessions in concert with members of the CPR History Taskforce, who have suggested panelists, developed questions, and volunteered to moderate the sessions. Before lunch, we will all enjoy a presentation on Loyola's political collections by our host for the day, Kathy Young. Box lunches will be available at the break. In the afternoon, we will turn

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our attention to the future and our roles therein. SAA Council member and CPR liaison Tom Hyry will provide a brief overview of the strategic planning priorities for SAA as a whole. Following his presentation, we will move into break out discussions where we will consider:

- What are CPR's strategic priorities?
- How do SAA's priorities align with priorities for CPR?
- How should CPR approach its strategic priorities?
- What roles can CPR and SAA play in meeting the priorities for each other?

Facilitators will guide the conversation and capture ideas expressed by participants. After the breakout discussions, the group will gather as a whole and share ideas and priorities and in doing so will begin to construct a blueprint of ideas that future CPR steering committees and members can follow.

After a short break, the annual CPR Membership meeting will begin at 3:15 p.m. in the same location as the preconference program. The focus of the meeting will be reports from the E-records Taskforce, the CPR History Taskforce, and the CPR Membership Survey Taskforce. Additionally, representatives from allied groups will provide brief updates relevant to CPR members and their work.

Following the meeting, unrestrained frivolity will ensue at approximately 4:30 p.m. as we all gather to celebrate twenty-five years of congressional papers magic with cake and merrymaking.

If you members have questions or ideas about any of the activities outlined above, please feel free to contact me, or a member of the CPR steering committee. Our contact information is available on the CPR web site at <http://www.archivists.org/saagroups/cpr/steering.asp>.

(GIFFORDS Continued from page 1)

Giffords' Office. Prior to my involvement with the sites I, like many Tucsonans, visited the lawn at UMC to light a candle for the victims. The sites were a place where the community could come together to show support, love, encouragement; and a place to grieve. Left behind were teddy bears, flowers, get well cards, posters, art-



A small portion of the boxes packed up during the dismantling of the UMC vigil site.

work, candles, and stories of inspiration left on any type of medium that could be written on, from rocks to tiles, to paper chains.

With the relocation of Congresswoman Giffords to Houston for continued rehabilitation and the release of the victims recovering at UMC, a new chapter in the healing process began. Plans to dismantle the vigil sites commenced. It was at that stage that I was contacted by representatives from the three vigil sites to assist in archiving the items. My role was to act as coordinator and consultant for the transfer of the materials from the sites to a safe and secure storage location.

In consultation with representatives from Giffords' Office, UMC, and Safeway, a number of meetings were held to determine the best course of action for the removal of the materials.

Correction

Dr. Gary Aguir's article "Who Writes to Their Senators?" in the Fall 2010 issue of CPR news incorrectly stated that the Daschle and Dole archives "are the sole depositaries of any [congressional] casework files." Many CPR News readers wrote in to correct this statement and a discussion of the retention and future research uses of congressional casework was conducted through the CPR discussion list in the following days.

(GIFFORDS Continued from page 4)

As a group, we wanted to insure that the materials would be preserved, that communication with the community was ongoing, and that materials specific to individual victims and their families would be given to them through the proper channels.

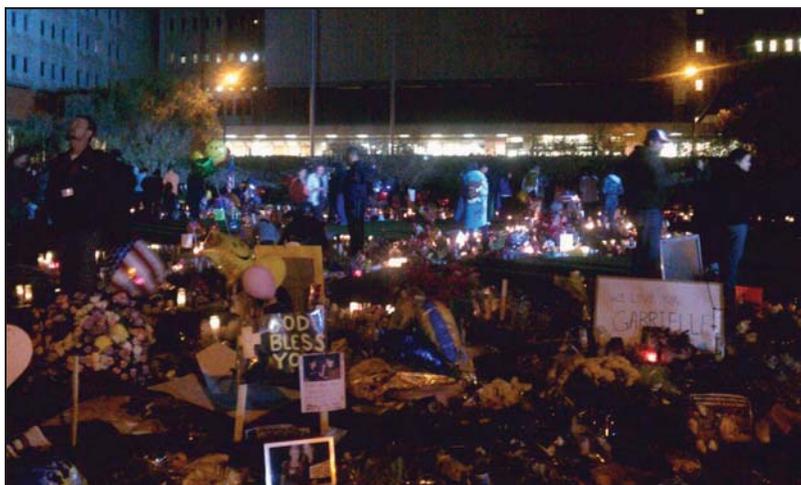
During the early planning stages, I created guidelines that provided step-by-step information on how the dismantling would take place; including the cleaning and packing of items and labeling of boxes. The information was distributed to the packing company and to key stakeholders. I also recruited four members of the Society of American Archivists Student Chapter at the University of Arizona to assist with the preservation and packaging of items and to oversee the dismantling of the materials at Congresswoman Giffords' Office and at Safeway, while I coordinated the dismantling of the UMC site.

As with any materials that are exposed to the elements for any length of time, damage to items occur, and the vigil/memorial sites were no exception. Caretakers of the three sites dutifully and respectfully maintained the items but wind, water, dirt, and critters deteriorated the objects. Prior to the dismantling, a group of colleagues and UMC staff completed a walkthrough of the UMC site identifying items that needed immediate attention. Those items were removed from the UMC lawn and relocated inside the building where they were dried, cleaned, and packaged. Shortly after, on February 4, 2011 the dismantling of the sites commenced.

Over 30 volunteers, including UMC, Safeway, and Giffords' staff were on hand at the sites to clean and package the items that day. By early afternoon all the candles, tiles, and artifacts had been wrapped. Cards and posters were cleaned and boxed and flowers were picked up and removed for drying. Decisions about the majority of the stuffed animals and flowers were



Aerial photograph of the University Medical Center vigil site taken on January 26th.



University Medical Center site at night. This photograph was taken on January 16th. (All photos by Chrystal Carpenter)

made, and the 60 or so boxes from the sites were transported to UMC for safekeeping until the next stage of the process commences.

Working on the removal of the memorial items was a humbling experience in which I was honored to assist with. The sites and the materials are a lasting tribute to victims and their families, they document the support and warmth of a community riddled by tragedy, and they are a powerful reminder of the historic and tragic event which took place on January 8, 2011. My work on this project further solidified my belief in the importance of what archivists do and the important role archives have in society, now and into the future.

-Chrystal Carpenter, Manuscript and Congressional Archivist, University of Arizona

CPR 25! Preconference & Meeting Schedule 2011

Please note, registration information for this preconference will be available in early June via the CPR listserv and the CPR Web site.

Preconference and Member Meeting Location

Rooms 303-304 Terry Student Center in Baumhart Hall on Loyola University's Water Tower Campus, 26 E. Pearson Street, Chicago, IL

Directions: <http://mapq.st/gb7Xq2>

Campus Map http://www.luc.edu/about/pdfs/wtc_map020911.pdf

CPR 25! Preconference Program, August 24, 2011

9:00-9:15 **Welcome and Brief Remarks**
Jill Severn, Chair CPR

9:15- 10:15 ***Sometimes a Great Notion: The Origins and Founding of Congressional Papers Roundtable***
Three of the principal figures who laid the critical groundwork for the establishment of the Congressional Papers Roundtable will share their memories and perspectives on how and why they and others established the Congressional Papers Roundtable.

Panelists: Connie Gallagher, Cynthia Miller, Lydia Lucas
Moderator: Rebecca Johnson Melvin

10:15-10:30 **Break**

10:30-11:30 **Keeping up with Keeping Congress: 25 Years of Congressional Papers Roundtable**
Reflections and perspectives from three CPR veterans who have been at the center of CPRs twenty-five year effort to set standards, propose solutions, and imagine new possibilities for managing congressional papers.

Panelists: Karen Paul, Sheryl Vogt, Herb Hartsook
Moderator: tba

11:30-12:00 **Congressional Archives at Loyola University**
Kathy Young, University Archivist at Loyola University Chicago shares some highlights from the Congressional Archives of the Loyola University Archives and Special Collections.

12:00-1:00 **Lunch**

1:00-1:15 **Break**

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(Pre-conference Schedule continued)

1:15-3:00 **What's Next? Envisioning Our Future**
 Echoing the 360° perspective of SAA's 75th anniversary meeting, CPR will reflect on its responsibilities and interests in relation to SAA's strategic priorities of achieving greater diversity, harnessing technology, and developing effective advocacy. CPR's SAA council representative Tom Hyry will start the discussion by sharing an overview of SAA's strategic priorities. Following his presentation the group will break into three groups to consider CPR's goals and interests in relation to advocacy, technology, and advocacy. Volunteer moderators will facilitate the group through the following steps:

Brainstorming the top 5 challenges and opportunities facing CPR members in relation to one of the three priorities (advocacy, technology, diversity)

Setting priorities from the brainstormed ideas

What are the immediate/long term needs?

What will be easy/hard to do and why?

What can be or should best solved/approached individually, as a committee, as a roundtable, or as SAA?

Following the breakout session, the three groups will come back together and moderators will report in brief. The work of the three sections will form the basis for setting strategic priorities for CPR as it moves forward into its next 25 years

3:00-3:15 **Break**

CPR 25! Member Meeting 2011, August 24, 2011

3:15 -4:30 **CPR meeting/business meeting**
Welcome and report from CPR Chair
Steering Committee and Interns Introductions (5 minutes)
SAA Council Representative
SAA Program Committee Representative

Committee and Task force Reports:

Survey Taskforce

E-Records Taskforce

History Taskforce

Nomination Committee

Reports from Allied Groups

Association of Centers for the Study of Congress (**Sheryl Vogt**)

Center for Legislative Archives (**Matt Fulgham**)

Office of History and Preservation, U.S. House of Representatives (**Robin Reeder**)

Senate Historical Office (**Karen Paul**)

Announcements

Adjourn

4:30-5:00 **Celebration of 25- year anniversary**
Photo-op
Cake
Frivolity

Congressional Papers Roundtable CANDIDATE STATEMENTS, 2011

Candidates for Chair-Elect (2 candidates)

- The chair, vice-chair/chair-elect, and the immediate past chair serve as officers of the roundtable. Only individual members of SAA and the Congressional Papers Roundtable may hold these positions.
- The officers make a commitment for three years to serve one year each as vice-chair/chair-elect, chair, and immediate past chair. Each is expected to attend the annual meeting.

Name: Leigh McWhite, Ph.D.

Title: Political Papers Archivist & Assistant Professor

Institution: University of Mississippi

Education

BA, International Studies and Economics, Rhodes College (Memphis, TN)

MA, History, University of Mississippi

PhD, History, University of Mississippi

Experience with Congressional Papers

Manager of the Modern Political Archives at UM since its creation in 2004.

Member of CPR, 2005-present

CPR Steering Committee, 2008-2010

Co-chair of CPR Electronic Records Task Force, 2009-present

What do you bring to the CPR chairmanship?

Seven years ago, I faced an almost overwhelming task -- assuming responsibility for my institution's massive congressional collections while lacking any previous experience with these complex creations. The publications, website, annual meetings, and other resources offered by CPR and its members were invaluable, and I feel a tremendous responsibility to give back to the roundtable and ensure that future archivists will also benefit from its collective wisdom.

What would you like CPR to do in the next four years?

CPR is an active and productive group. Continued success will require active recruitment of members, an expanded web presence offering even more resources, and maintenance of annual meeting programs that educate members on issues ranging from preservation and processing to fundraising and outreach.

Name: Lori Schwartz

Title: Special Projects Archivist

Institution: South Carolina Political Collections, University of South Carolina

Education: MLIS and MA in Public History from the University of South Carolina

Experience with Congressional Papers

I have been a full time political papers archivist at SC Political Collections since 2004. My first big project involved working with the papers of Sen. Ernest F. "Fritz" Hollings, whose collection covers 55 years of public service in several offices and stands at 800 linear ft (down from 2400 ft). Since then, I have helped bring in, inventory, and/or organize the papers of Congressmen Joe Wilson and John Spratt, among others, and also worked on events, outreach activities, exhibits, our website, and training of graduate archival students.

What do you bring to the CPR Chairmanship?

I've attended the pre-conference sessions held by CPR for several years now, am finishing up my second year as a member of the Steering Committee, and would welcome the experience of serving as CPR Chair. I would bring to the chairmanship my willingness to share my honest opinion about what issues we need to tackle over the next few years and what is working for our group and what is not. I bring a high level of enthusiasm for our chosen niche in the archives world and could use that to draw in new members and encourage others to step into leadership roles.

What would you like CPR to do in the next four years?

I would like to see CPR continue to reach out to archivists who have found themselves working with political collections in their repositories, perhaps in a part-time capacity, but have not yet utilized our group as a valuable resource. I hope the program this year at our pre-conference day in Chicago will begin that process, as we celebrate 25 years while at the same time introducing new members to our unique field. Our discussions in Chicago should also provide a roadmap of issues for CPR to address in the coming years in the areas of technology, outreach, and diversity. I would also like to continue the intern program inaugurated this year that saw three young archivists participate in the work of the Steering Committee.

Candidates for Steering Committee, two vacancies (3 candidates)

The Steering Committee directs and coordinates activities of the roundtable and approves appointments made by the chair if vacancies occur.

Name: Burt Altman, CA, MA, MLS
Title: Archivist/University Librarian
Institution: Florida State University Libraries, Special Collections and Archives
Education:
 BA, Political Science, Ithaca College
 MA, History, Adelphi University
 MSLS, Long Island University

Experience with Congressional Papers

Since 1981, I have served as the Congressional Papers Archivist for the Claude Pepper Library (Florida State University Libraries), where I have also managed processing projects for other collections of political papers. In addition, I developed and implemented a digitization project for various collections and am leading efforts towards developing the Pepper Library as a political papers research center.

What do you bring to the CPR Steering Committee?

As a Steering Committee member, I would bring my excitement and passion for congressional collections that I've acquired in my professional work. Beginning with my recent experience in networking with fellow CPR colleagues to propose and develop an SAA roundtable session at the Chicago meeting, I would like to continue drawing upon the expertise of other congressional papers archivists, whom I feel would be invaluable in exploring new ways to enhance access to and enable our repositories to promote these unique collections more efficiently.

What would you like CPR to do in the next four years?

During the next four years, I would like to see CPR develop approaches to efficiently utilize the expertise and knowledge of our fellow CPR archivists. In doing so, I feel we can build on our knowledge base and refine our best practices for providing access to and promoting these resources.

Name: Walter D. Ray
Title: Political Papers Archivist
Institution: Southern Illinois University Carbondale
Education:
 MA, International Relations, Boston University; MA, Russian, Middlebury College; PhD, Theology, University of Notre Dame

Experience with Congressional Papers

Southern Illinois University Carbondale currently houses the papers of two U. S. Senators and four Congressmen, along with several other political papers and labor collections. I have been working with these collections for almost five years since becoming SIUC's first political papers archivist. In that time I have built the political papers unit from the ground up, exerting physical and intellectual control over existing collections, doing reference and outreach, acquiring new collections and developing future donors.

What do you bring to the CPR Steering Committee?

CPR has been an invaluable resource for me in my work. I have been a member since 2006. I served on the Steering Committee from 2007 to 2009. It would be an honor to serve on the steering committee. I would bring to the task a strong desire to see CPR continue to thrive to be there for the several archivists I have met recently--and the large number I know are out there, some lone arrangers--faced with seemingly daunting task of dealing with newly acquired or unprocessed legacy collections of congressional papers.

What would you like CPR to do in next four years?

I have a few things I'd like to see the CPR Steering Committee focus on in the next few years:

- Continued support for the e-records task force as they unravel what I think is the most pressing challenge for congressional papers archivists
- Outreach to archivists with congressional papers collections
- Outreach to members of Congress, perhaps with a downloadable brochure CPR members can use when they solicit congressional papers
- Continuing to provide useful and timely preconference programs for CPR members.

Name: Kathy Young
Title: University Archivist
Institution: Loyola University Chicago
Education: Master of Science in American History, Illinois State University, 1991; Master of Library and Information Science with a concentration in Archival Administration, Dominican University, 2001; Certified Archivist, 2008

Experience with Congressional Papers

I have been working with Congressional Papers, specifically the Dan Rostenkowski papers and Henry Hyde papers, as part of Special Collections since 2002. During the past several years I have done everything from working with the donors, their families and staff to designing new work areas, including a new reading room. Along the way I have worked with the University General Counsel on deeds of gift, appraised collections, written policies and procedures, processed parts of the Rostenkowski papers, and supervised staff processing the collections.

What do you bring to the CPR steering committee/chairmanship?

I bring a life-long interest in Congress and Congressional papers to the steering committee as well as a desire to continue learning about and preserving these fascinating collections. I also bring a commitment to use my talents and skills to help CPR continue its outstanding work and service to the membership.

What do you see CPR doing over the next 4 years?

I believe that over the next four years the CPR steering committee should focus on developing opportunities for diversity and new member participation in the roundtable. Encouraging diversity and new member participation in programs and projects will increase the strength of the roundtable, help facilitate member orientation to SAA, and may help CPR members get more sessions on the program for the annual conference



INSTITUTIONAL UPDATES

Congressional Black Caucus Foundation

Avoice: African American Voices in Congress (www.avoiceonline.org), the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation award-winning online library of African-American legislative participation, and the Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital (GSCNS) partnered to launch a new patch program this fall for Washington, DC-area Girl Scouts.



Girl Scout Stranjaé Ivory, shows off the African American Voices in Congress patch she earned for the back of her vest.

The *African Americans in Congress, Leaders: Past, Present and Future Patch Program* was designed to encourage Girl Scouts in grades 6 through 12 to explore the history of African Americans in Congress through primary-source research, service projects, internships, advocacy activities and oral history projects. The incorporation of resources from the Avoice online archive of Congressional material is central to the patch program's activities. After successfully completing the program's requirements, each girl will receive the African-Americans in Congress Program patch to wear



Representative Donna F. Edwards (MD-04), a former Girl Scout herself, speaks on the importance of knowing African-American Congressional History and applauds the partnership between the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Inc. and the Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital.

on their Girl Scout sash or vest.

A Girl Scout Milk and Cookies Reception celebrating the launch of the patch was held at the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's Annual Legislative Conference on September 16, 2010. Representatives Donna F. Edwards (MD-04) and Eddie Bernice Johnson (TX-30), both former Girl Scouts, attended the event and gave remarks. The African Americans in Congress Patch Program was sponsored by Dell Inc. and Ms. Faye Fields, of Integrated Resource Technologies, Inc. The patch program is available for use by Girl Scout troops in the Washington, DC area. For more information visit www.gscnc.org/africanamericansincongress.html.

In November 2010, Avoice will also launch a new, online exhibit on the Congressional Black Caucus and its involvement in shaping education legislation and reform in the United States. Paying specific attention to the passage of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), its amendments and its reauthori-

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zations, the exhibit will trace how African Americans in Congress have participated in the transformation of education for all students in the United States. The exhibit will feature correspondence, newsletters, speeches and other resources from a variety of archives and personal collections around the country. To see the Education Policy Exhibit and the other six digital-archive exhibits featured on Avoice, visit www.avoiceline.org.

-Alison Kootstra

Southern Illinois University-Carbondale

On February 23, 2011, the Special Collections Research Center at Southern Illinois University Carbondale celebrated United States Senator Roland Burris's donation of his senatorial and state government papers. This included a press conference, an exhibit, "From Saluki to Senator" as well as a symposium about Burris's contribution to the citizens of Illinois.

Born in Centralia, the Honorable Roland Burris earned his B.A. in Political Science from SIUC in 1959. While at SIUC, along with other members of his fraternity, Alpha Phi Alpha, Mr. Burris documented discrimination against African-Americans by Carbondale merchants, leading to university-led reforms. From 1963 to 1964 Mr. Burris worked for the U.S. Treasury Department as a national bank examiner. From 1971 to 1973 he worked at Continental Illinois National Bank



Senator Roland Burris view the exhibit "From Saluki to Senator."

and Trust Company of Chicago, before joining the cabinet of then-Illinois Governor Dan Walker as Director of the Department of General Services in 1973. From 1977 to 1978 he served as National Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer of Operation PUSH, People United to Save Humanity.

In 1978, he was the first African-American elected to a major political office in Illinois when he became the Illinois Comptroller, and later the Illinois Attorney General from 1991-1995. He then worked as Counsel with the law firm Buford and Peters, LLC, in Chicago. Mr. Burris was appointed to fill Barack Obama's seat in the Senate when Mr. Obama became president in 2009.

The Senator Roland Burris papers provide significant documentation of the broad spectrum of political activities of modern Illinois through over 100+ cubic feet of correspondence, speeches, research files, drafts of legislation,

electronic records, photographs, and artifacts. His papers document his time representing and working for the citizens of Illinois—most recently on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the Health Care Reform bill and the Wall Street and Consumer Protection Act.

This record of his career in the Senate and the various state elected positions he held is both a great body of resources for students of recent Illinois history and a wonderful addition to our extraordinary collection of materials on Illinois political history. Senator Burris's papers are currently being processed and made available to researchers.

~Pam Hackbart-Dean

Johnson C. Smith University

The Inez Moore Parker Archives at the James B. Duke Memorial Library, Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte North Carolina, is proud to announce the completion of processing for the Eva Clayton Collection. Rep. Clayton, a 1955 graduate of Smith, retired in 2002 after ten years as North Carolina State Representative, 1st Congressional District, in the United States House of Representatives. During her term in office, Rep. Clayton has served on several committees, among them the agriculture and budget committees. Her achievements include a legislative initiative that resulted in close to 2 billion dollars given to African American farmers for discrimination of resources by the Department of Agriculture.

As Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, she worked to create a new initiative called WOW (With Ownership Wealth) to encourage 1 million new African American homeowners within five years. Rep. Clayton says she decided to donate her papers to JCSU because she wanted to “give them to the institution where I got my start. I want to be a part of continuing its ability to nurture young people.” She hopes the documents will be useful to researchers in the future and will set the right example for future congressional alumni who attended Smith.

The collection of 359 archival boxes contains floor statements, committee reports, speeches, correspondence, records of donations and events, and other materials that chronicle Rep. Clayton’s time in the United States Congress. The Eva Clayton Collection contains detailed information on personal projects that Rep. Clayton was particularly passionate about, including the U.S. Department of Agriculture and their treatment of black farmers, Hurricane Floyd’s impact on North Carolina’s agricultural community, the Congressional Black Caucus, and the Rural Caucus of North Carolina. The Eva Clayton Collection is not open to the general public, but the contents of the collection can be viewed by contacting Brandon Lunsford, Ar-

chival Services Librarian at the Inez Moore Parker Archives, and with consent from Rep. Clayton.

-Brandon Lunsford

The State Historical Society of Missouri



Ike Skelton, Tom Eagleton, and Jerry Litton gather on September 1974 in Richmond, Missouri.

The long and distinguished political career of Isaac Newton “Ike” Skelton IV is documented in his professional and personal papers, which are now accessible at the Society’s research center.

The papers fill more than three hundred boxes containing constituent correspondence, press releases, clippings, subject files, memoranda, speeches, photographs, and other material. Hundreds of audio and video recordings are also part of the collection.

Born in Lexington, Skelton graduated from Wentworth Military Academy and the University of Missouri-Columbia, where he received A.B. and L.L.B. degrees. He was named as a member of Phi Beta Kappa and the Law Review. He served as Lafayette County Prosecuting Attorney and as a Missouri State Senator prior to representing Missouri’s Fourth U.S. Congressional District from 1977 to 2011. He was chair of the Committee on Armed Services during his final two terms in Congress.

Researchers must obtain written permission from Ike Skelton to view his papers. Contact the research center at (573) 882-1187 or shsofmo@umsystem.edu for details.

-Laura Wilson

Baylor University

Spring Lecture

Dr. Anthony Champagne and Dr. Jim Riddlesperger, two of the authors of *The Austin/Boston Connection: Fifty Years of Democratic Leadership, 1937-1989*, were the featured speakers at the W. R. Poage Legislative Library Annual Lecture held on March 24. Forty-five local and out-of-town guests attended a lunch in honor of the authors at the Mayborn Museum Complex on the Baylor campus.

The 4 o'clock lecture provided insight into the current political environment by comparing it to the Congress during the time when there was relative ideological agreement between Democrat and Republican floor leaders. Former Congressman Chet Edwards (D-TX 1991-2011) was a special guest and enriched the discussion with his first-hand knowledge. A reception and book signing were held at the Poage Library after the lecture.

10-Year Anniversary of the Fall of the Soviet Union



Poage Library in collaboration with the Keston Center for Religion, Politics and Society at Baylor opened the retrospective exhibit featuring Soviet memorabilia collected by Dr. Robert Platt and information about religious persecution provided by the Baylor's Keston Center. The ex-

hibit opened February 24 to a large gathering, with many special guests: Robert and Ruth Platt; Dr. Michael Bourdeaux, founder of the Keston Institute (UK) in 1968; Xenia Dennen, the current Keston Institute chair; former Congressman Chet Edwards; and Baylor President Judge Kenneth Starr. A reception of Russian and Slavic foods was served as guests perused the exhibit, tried to name all the Soviet Republics, and signed up for prizes. The exhibit will run until the end of July.

-Mary Goolsby

University of Mississippi

The Modern Political Archives has created an online database entitled Mississippi Members of Congress (http://www.olemiss.edu/depts/general_library/files/exhibit/ms-members-congress/). It provides basic information on all 159 Mississippians who have represented the state in the U.S. Congress to date. Conceived as a tool to help researchers locate Mississippi congressional collections that best suit their specific interests, the database includes a few features that make it distinct from the [Congressional Biographical Directory](#). For example, entries contain a complete listing of all committee memberships and leadership positions and the relevant time spans. In addition, the database notes congressional districts for U.S. Representatives and includes a [historical map set of Mississippi's congressional districts](#) in order that researchers studying a particular locale may determine who served the district. If collections are available, a maximum of two collections are listed along with links to available online finding aids.

In 2010, the University of Mississippi received a \$450,000 federal appropriation through an Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) grant to preserve and digitize over 4,500 recordings in the Modern Political Archives. Formats involved include audio reel-to-

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reels, 78 rpm discs, LP records, 16mm film, 35mm film, umatic ¾ inch tapes, Beta tapes, VHS tapes, microcassette and cassette tapes, DVDs, CDs, and MP3 audio files. The IMLS grant has enabled the archive to restore the recordings and create digital copies. It also provides the means for long-term preservation of both the originals and their digital counterparts. The grant ends on 31 May 2011. By that date, descriptions of all the recordings in the collections open to the public will be available via CONTENTdm: [Thomas G. Abernethy](#); [James O. Eastland](#); [Carroll Gartin](#); [Robert F. Kennedy Speech](#); [League of Women Voters of Mississippi](#); [Nash & Taggart](#); [Ed Perry](#); [Presidential Debate](#); [Southern Women Legislators](#); and [Jamie L. Whitten](#). While researchers may review a number of the recordings via the internet, copyright will restrict access on other material to onsite library computer terminals. Closed collections involved in the grant include Thad Cochran, Trent Lott, Ray Mabus, and Roger Wicker.

The grant specifically benefits two recent donations. Following an exhibit last spring on Robert F. Kennedy and the University of Mississippi, the Modern Political Archives received a cassette recording of Senator Kennedy's 1966 speech on campus to a crowd of 6,000. Forty years later, authors Jere Nash and Andy Taggart were conducting research for their book *Mississippi Politics: The Struggle for Power, 1976-2006* (University Press of Mississippi, 2006). In 2010, they donated 84 recordings of oral histories with 60 individuals. Interviewees in the Nash & Taggart Collection include governors, members of Congress, state legislators, state officials, state party leaders, political candidates, staff members, lawyers, and lobbyists. Subjects discussed range from state political parties, national and state elections, individual politicians, reapportionment, and state legislative battles on education, the highway program, gambling, and tort reform.

To commemorate the recent completion of two sets of judicial papers, the archives organized programs on Mississippi Supreme Court Chief Justice [Armis Hawkins](#) (1 July 2010) and on Chief Judge [J.P. Coleman](#) of the U.S. Court of

Appeals for the Fifth Circuit (8 March 2011). Accredited by the state bar's Continuing Legal Education program and the Mississippi Judicial College, both events had an excellent turnout of family, former law clerks and colleagues, friends, and members of the bar.

-Leigh McWhite

University of Delaware

The University of Delaware celebrated the gift of papers from two distinguished members of Congress with public signing ceremonies this past Fall.

The new collections are from the Honorable Michael N. Castle, Republican from the At-Large District of Delaware, U.S. House of Representatives, 1993-2011 and the Honorable Edward E. "Ted" Kaufman, Democrat from Delaware, U.S. Senate, 2009-2010.

U Del has successfully archived Senator Kaufman's website as part of the finding aid for the collection and are making the archived version of the site available at <http://www.lib.udel.edu/ud/spec/findaids/kaufman/index.htm>.

University of Kansas

The Dole Institute of Politics welcomed David Palkki, Deputy Director of the Conflict Records Research Center at National Defense University, as their second annual Dole Archives Visiting Fellow. David spoke with Senior Archivist Morgan Davis in a public interview as part of his two-day visit.

This spring, the Dole Archive awarded over \$5,000 in competitive research fellowships and travel grants which will allow researchers from across the country access to collections held here.

Students participating in Kansas History Day were offered a chance to compete for a special prize offered by the Dole Institute for projects addressing some aspect of congressional history. Winning projects were awarded certificates, display of their projects at a Dole Institute event and prize money totaling \$600.

-Morgan Davis