



# Congressional Papers Roundtable

## NEWSLETTER

Society of American Archivists

Summer 2016

### A Message from the Chair by Marc Levitt

Hello fellow CPR members! Summer has well and truly started, and I hope all is well in your lives and institutions.

We have a few updates to be aware of, and a call for volunteers. The task forces and sub-committees have been busy as usual, and we're looking at expanding and reviewing the various aspects of the CPR.

First, the Strategic Plan is nearly 5 years old, and many of the items on the plan have been accomplished (kudos!). We're looking to put together another task force to review the original initiatives, make revisions, and update the plan as needed. Four to five people would be an appropriate size, and you can respond to the listserv announcement or to me directly ([vaxtang2010@yahoo.com](mailto:vaxtang2010@yahoo.com)).

Secondly, after discussions with the Diversity Task Force, they will also be recruiting 1-2 new members to help cover their issues of advocacy, outreach,

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### 2016 CPR Elections

The Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the 2016 candidate for Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect and three candidates for two positions on the Congressional Papers Roundtable Steering Committee. All the candidates have experience with congressional papers and a commitment to professional service. Please review the candidate information included in this issue of the newsletter in order to make an informed decision.

Voting for the election will take place online and will occur via the Society of American Archivists website. SAA staff will make online ballots accessible to CPR members during the first week of July. The Nominating Committee will issue reminders about the ballot on the CPR discussion list and will announce the election results as soon as SAA makes them available.

Thank you to all the members who submitted nominations and to all the candidates for agreeing to run for office!

#### 2016 CPR Nominating Committee

Rob Spindler, Chair  
Katie Delacenserie  
Tammie Kim

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and diversity (and have put that call out on the listserv). They've done great work again this year, and this is a good opportunity for anyone interested in these issues.

Third, the Electronic Records Committee is also looking for new members as we rotate the current membership per the By-Laws. Again, check the listserv to join this active and accomplished group. I'm extremely impressed with the amount of blogs and case studies posted to their new website; it's becoming quite the indispensable resource for the CPR!

Of course, the summer newsletter would not be complete without a preview of the CPR Pre-Conference meeting that is just 2 months away. We have a great program lined up which you can see in this newsletter.

The CPR Program is just around the corner from the Atlanta Hilton on the campus of Georgia State University (less than 1 mile away). It appears to be an easy 10-15 minute walk; thanks to Mary Goolsby for the suggestion and help securing a venue so close.

The lunch options for the CPR Program are available, and we're going to try a different mechanism for choosing your selections. [Please respond to the survey](#) with your choices, filling out all fields. Please do so as soon as possible, and no later than Monday, July 18. Mr. Bob Henderson of Hollinger Metal Edge has generously agreed to provide the catered lunch at no cost to members or panelists.

I've also included this link on the CPR forum for convenience. Moderators, please be sure to send this link to your panelists if they plan on staying for lunch, too.

One important change: our business meeting will be Friday morning (7:30-9:00). This is due to a couple of factors, but mainly because of the scheduling of the main conference and plenary session (and I did not want to tack it on after the

CPR all-day meeting). At the meeting, we'll hear reports from our colleagues, related groups, and from Jessica Scott of History Associates regarding the survey they conducted on repositories that receive congressional records. We'll also brainstorm some ideas for the Strategic Plan, so a [review of the 2012 document](#) would be useful.

It's been an interesting year, and I thank you for allowing me the opportunity to be your Chair. I really appreciate the support and help I've received from the dedicated membership, and I look forward to seeing everyone shortly at the meeting in August!

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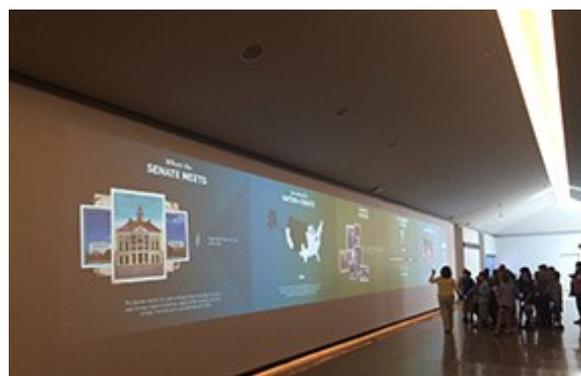
## ACSC Annual Meeting Report

by Debbie Davendonis-Todd,  
Baylor University



### “Welcome Senators!”

From May 11 to 13, 2016 members of the Association of Centers for the Study of Congress gathered for the 13th Annual Meeting at the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United State Senate in Boston, Massachusetts. The conference theme, “Defining Our Audiences,” explored the various constituencies congressional centers serve — former members, journalists, authors, and the K-12 communities to name a few.



*An Institute docent works with a group of students.*

*(continued on page 3)*

*(ACSC Report, continued from page 2)*

Kathleen Hall Jamieson, Director of the Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania, delivered the keynote address. Jamieson represented the Civics Renewal Network and her address, “A Republic, If We Can Teach It,” was powerful. The Civics Renewal Network focuses on pooling a variety of civics education resources that can be tailored to a variety of educational outlets. Their goal is for educators to find the best resources for their needs.



The highlight for attendees was participating in the EMK Institute’s immersion program on the Compromise of 1850. They are highly regarded

for the educational programming they conduct using their full-scale replica of the United States Senate.



The Electronic Records Committee presented a panel entitled, “Working With a New Audience to Secure Members’ Electronic Records: The Future is Now!” which brought together a systems administrator from a member’s current office, an archivist working for an office that is closing, a repository archivist that received records from a retired Senator, and the National Digital Stewardship Resident Fellow. in the Senate Historical Office.

The discussion that followed centered on issues and challenges when it comes to capturing, managing, and preserving electronic records at various stages of the lifecycle of congressional offices. Panelists were asked three rounds of questions about their work environments, current data management practices, and preservation issues that arise with closing and transfer procedures.

The last panelist, John Caldwell, National Digital Stewardship Resident in the Senate Historical Office summarized the panel discussion by offering five final takeaways:



*Panelists from l to r: John Caldwell, Hope Grebner, Kate Stewart, Vik Kulkarni, and moderators Katie Delacenserie and Alison White. Photo credit: Danielle Emerling*

- 1) Early collaboration with the member office is very important with electronic records. Repositories that expect or hope to receive a Congressional member’s materials should make contact so they can start asking questions.
- 2) Interactions/meetings with the office should include the systems administrator, archivist or person tasked with records management, the press or communications team, office manager, State Director, Chief of Staff.
- 3) Ask specific, targeted questions about how electronic records are managed in the office, such as use of SharePoint, how far back records go, and contextual information about records creators.

*(continued on page 4)*

*(ACSC Report, continued from page 3)*

4) A comprehensive inventory including number of files, volume of data, format identification and determining where various types of records are stored is key in helping repositories know what to ask for.

5) Set up a plan for transfer with the office well in advance of closing. With electronic records, you can't afford to wait and in the Congressional environment an office may need to close quickly. Proactive planning is hugely helpful and archivists must reach out to new audiences to ensure long term preservation of electronic records.

Other sessions included, "Public Programming for a Variety of Publics," "Promoting Civic Engagement at the EMK Institute," and the always popular former members panel featuring Peter Torkildsen (R-MA) and Nancy Lee Johnson (R-CT). Attendees were also treated to a session on oral histories.

Next year, the ACSC Annual Meeting will be held at the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

#### **ACSC-CPR Travel Award for the SAA 2016**

ACSC provided Theresa Hooker, working on the Weldon Papers at the Florida Institute of Technology and Matt Kruse, working on the Connie Mack Papers at the University of Florida the CPR Travel Award.

— *Debbie Davendonis-Todd, Mary Goolsby, Katie Delacenserie and Alison White*

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#### **CPR Business Meeting Agenda**

**Friday, August 5, 2016 (7:30-9:00am)**

**Room 210/211 Hilton Atlanta**

- |      |  |
|------|--|
| 7:30 | Welcome, Report of the Chair (Levitt)  |
| 7:35 | Group/Liaison Reports:   |
|      | Nominations and Elections Committee (Spindler)   |
|      | Electronic Records Committee (Zastrow/Emerling)  |
|      | Diversity Committee (Kim)  |
|      | Center for Legislative Archives (Harris)   |
|      | US Senate (Paul)   |
|      | US House of Representatives (Reeder)   |
|      | Association of Centers for the Study of Congress (TBD)   |
| 8:00 | Presentation: <i>Advice on Donating Congressional Records – What Members of Congress Should Know</i> (Jessica Scott, History Associates) |
| 8:20 | Discussion: SAA Proposed changes to affinity groups; task force ready to bring the CPG into compliance with the new requirements         |
| 8:35 | Discussion: CPR Strategic Plan   |
| 8:55 | Introduction of incoming CPR chair Danielle Emerling   |
| 9:00 | Adjourn  |



**Pre-Conference Program  
Congressional Papers Roundtable  
Wednesday, August 3, 2016, 9AM-5PM**

**Location:** Commerce Building, Bennett Brown Room  
Georgia State University, [34 Broad Street NW](#)  
Atlanta, GA 30303

9:00-9:15                    **Welcome/Logistics** (Marc Levitt, Chair, National Naval Aviation Museum)

9:15-10:30                **Collaboration: Repositories and Academic Units**  
*We'll be taking a look at the planning, implementation, and relationships of the collaboration of archival institutions and other academic units. Also, what is it like to work with retired Members who engage at varying levels of interaction with these two entities?*

Marc Levitt, Moderator  
Hope Grebner (Drake University)  
Danielle Emerling (West Virginia University)  
Herb Hartsook (University of South Carolina)

10:30-10:45              Break

10:45-Noon                **Web Archiving Congress**  
*Members of Congress have been creating websites to communicate with broad audiences since the 1990s, and increasingly, they are using social media in a dialogue with constituents, the media, and each other. How can archivists identify, capture, and represent these dynamic interactions and unique records? Panelists from state and university repositories, the Federal Web Archiving Group, and the Internet Archive will discuss their approaches to web archiving and encourage the audience to think about how CPR members can work together to web-archive Congress and what collaboration in web archiving could look like.*

Danielle Emerling, Moderator  
Jefferson Bailey (Internet Archive)  
Dory Bower (U.S. Government Publishing Office)  
Roger Christman (Library of Virginia)  
Tammi Kim (University of Nevada, Las Vegas)

*(continued on page 6)*

*(pre-conference schedule from pg. 5)*

Noon-1:30            [Lunch \(pre-ordered or on your own\)](#). The catered lunch has been generously provided by Mr. Bob Henderson of Hollinger Metal Edge.

1:30-2:15            **Securing Digital Records**  
*The need for IT staff is far outpacing their demand; information systems and archives professionals often have different priorities and understandings of what is needed to preserve electronic records for the future, and archivists are increasingly having to rely upon third parties for their information security needs. This panel is composed of professionals trained in both IT and archives who will discuss things that can and must be understood if we are to truly be able to tell donors “we can keep the records safe.”*

Jim Havron (Albert Gore Research Center)  
Albert Whittenberg (Middle Tennessee State University)

2:20-3:35            **Experimenting with Outreach: Everything But the Kitchen Sink**  
*Outreach isn't just punch and cookies anymore! From CLE credits to press releases, from Kettering forums to Social Media, from cooking contests to fellowship programs—outreach in political papers has taken off, in ways you've never imagined! Come learn about the innovative programs three Political Papers Archivists have devised to promote their collections, attract new audiences and measure their success.*

Jan Zastrow, Moderator  
Jan Hebbard (Richard B. Russell Library, University of Georgia)  
Leigh McWhite (University of Mississippi)  
Robert Rubero (Claude Pepper Library, Florida State University)

3:35-3:45            Break

3:45-4:45            **Workshop on (Re)Appraising**  
*Join your colleagues in a discussion of appraisal theory, policies, and practices as they relate to political records.*

Laura Litwer (University of South Carolina)

5:00                    Program concludes



## CPR Officer Nominees

The Nominating Committee presents the following candidates for Vice Chair/Chair Elect and the Steering Committee. Position descriptions are as follows:

**Vice Chair/Chair-Elect:** The individual elected to this post will serve on the Steering Committee during 2016-17. The next year, they will become chair of CPR followed by a year as immediate past chair (member of Steering Committee and chair of Nominating Committee). This post is a **three-year commitment**.

**Steering Committee:** Two individuals will be elected to serve **two-year terms** on the Steering Committee. During their first year, the members will serve on the Nominating Committee followed by a year on the Program Committee.

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### Vice Chair/Chair-Elect

#### Debbie Davendonis-Todd

Title: Associate Director

Institution: W. R. Poage Legislative Library, Baylor University

Education: BA in History, Beloit College and MLIS, University of South Carolina

#### Biography

Debbie is the Associate Director of the W.R. Poage Legislative Library at Baylor University. Debbie joined the faculty of Baylor University in November 2012. In the spring of 2015, she assumed a more senior role in the day-to-day activities at the Poage Library and was recently promoted to Associate Director. Prior to Baylor, Debbie worked as the political papers archivist at the University of Florida. She currently serves as a member of CPR's Steering Committee and is a member of the SAA's Committee on Advocacy and Public Policy (CAPP). In 2015, Debbie and her five CAPP colleagues were awarded SAA Council's Exemplary Service Award. Debbie attended the University of South Carolina where she received her MLIS and worked as a graduate assistant at South Carolina Political Collections.

#### What is your experience with congressional papers?

From 2008 to 2010, I became familiar with the workings of a modern congressional papers repository as a graduate assistant at South Carolina Political Collections (SCPC) at the University of South Carolina. From 2010-2012, I completed a two-year term to process the Senator D. Robert "Bob" Graham Papers at the University of Florida. The Graham Papers project allowed me the opportunity to bolster my skills and continue to grow as a professional archivist. Since 2012, I have served as the Bullock Archivist in the Poage Library; I oversee all processing activities at the Poage Library. This includes establishing overall organization for collections, creating finding aids, determining preservation needs, and assisting with acquisitions of collections. In the spring of 2015, I assumed a more senior role in the day-to-day activities at the Poage Library.

#### What do you bring to the CPR Steering Committee?

I have an active record of service in my day to day professional responsibilities but also to the broader archival community, including being a CPR Intern (2010), CPR Steering Committee (2014-present), CAPP (2014-present). My work at three different congressional repositories has strengthened my relationships with colleagues and deepened my field experiences. I am enthusiastic, sincere and focused.

*(continued on page 8)*

*(Debbie Davendonis-Todd, continued from page 7)*

### **What would you like CPR to accomplish in the next 3-5 years?**

I envision a CPR that continues to lead and innovate. In particular, the work coming from Electronic Records Committee is superb, and continuing to pool our shared experiences to define a clear path to addressing our digital distress is a top priority. I also see CPR as an incubator for leadership within our field but also to the broader SAA framework. To that end, I would like to see CPR develop an extension of our dynamic pre-conference programming throughout the year. For instance, the case study method used by the ERC might provide a template for engaging our membership on other issues and provide opportunities for writing and debating “hot topics” within the field. Similar to the ERC case study effect, such pieces can be used as springboards for deepening the impact of education and outreach efforts in congressional papers and beyond.

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## **Steering Committee Candidates (2 positions)**

### **Natalie Bond**

Institution: University of Montana Mansfield Library

Education: B.A., American Studies & History, Northwestern University, 2008

M.S.I, University of Michigan School of Information, 2012

### **Biography**

Baltimore-born and raised, I have been bouncing around the country (and the globe!) for the better part of a decade. Significant milestones in this journey include the National Museum of Ireland – Prehistory and Archaeology; Smithsonian Folkways’ Ralph Rinzler Archives; the University of Michigan’s School of Information; rural and national archives in Fort Portal and Entebbe, Uganda; the Bancroft Library at UC Berkeley; and finally the University of Montana’s Mansfield Library, where I am currently working with former Montana Senator Max Baucus’ papers. Research interests include the American folk revival, the Northern Irish Troubles, and social memory. Life interests include running on trails, craft beers, the Grateful Dead, and spoiling my two cats.

### **What is your experience with congressional papers?**

I have been working for the past year and a half on the Max Baucus Papers. [Max Baucus is Montana’s longest-running Senator, serving 35 years in the U.S. Senate. He is currently the U.S. Ambassador to China.] The Baucus Papers, a mixed-media collection, constitutes just over 1,000 linear feet and includes photographs, audiovisual materials, and 1.4 TB of electronic records. Prior to this project, I worked with a similarly-sized gubernatorial collection at UC Berkeley, the papers of former California Governor Pat Brown. Since beginning work on the Baucus Papers, I have been active within both CPR and ACSC (Association of Centers for the Study of Congress). I currently serve on CPR’s Diversity Task Force.

### **What do you bring to the CPR Steering Committee?**

Along with heaps of energy and enthusiasm for the field, I believe I bring a unique perspective to the Steering Committee. Working in a variety of cultural heritage institutions and geographical locations has certainly molded my identity as an archivist, and allowed me to broadly consider archival principles in a global context. These experiences have really impressed upon me the significance and impact of archival material in modern society—particularly the crucial understandings and dialogues which manifest when

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*(Natalie Bond, continued from page 9)*

individuals, societies, and governments explore both their modern and historical identities through the lens of historic material and artifacts. I believe that the diversity of my professional experiences, in addition to a passion for beltway politics in general (you can usually find me listening to C-Span radio, NPR, political podcasts or—currently—Robert Caro’s LBJ biography on tape), allows me a greater awareness with which to approach my work and professional activities.

### **What would you like CPR to accomplish in the next 3-5 years?**

There have been some great thought-provoking discussions in the field lately regarding social justice, white privilege, and the meaning of diversity in archives: I feel that we, as political papers archivists, have a unique opportunity to examine these issues in the context of Congressional/political collections. In this vein, I’d like to see CPR build on the work currently being done by our Diversity Task Force and broaden the scope of discussions regarding diversity, a sentiment espoused by SAA President Dennis Meissner in the March/April 2016 issue of *Archival Outlook*. This can manifest in a variety of ways—panel discussions at the pre-conference session, collaboration on scholarly papers, outreach initiatives, re-examination of our diversity statement—but it would be great to really dig down into how political papers and congressional collections, often dominated by white heteronormative narratives, fit into this dialogue. I would also like to see CPR continue the fantastic work that is currently being done with electronic records, as well as persist in efforts to educate legislators about the importance of active records management and archival preservation.

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### **Hope Grebner**

Title: Political Papers Archivist and Assistant Professor of Librarianship

Institution: Drake University

Education: MA in American History, Indiana University Bloomington

MLS, Indiana University Bloomington

BA in History and 19th Century Studies, Monmouth College (IL)

### **Biography**

Hope Grebner is Political Papers Archivist and Assistant Professor of Librarianship at Drake University Archives and Special Collections where she manages the political papers collections. She serves as co-chair of the Communications Committee for the Association of Centers for the Study of Congress and as a task force member of the ACSC’s The Great Society Congress digital exhibition. She is also a member of the Midwest Archives Conference and the Consortium of Iowa Archivists.

### **What is your experience with congressional papers?**

My experience with congressional papers began during an undergraduate research project on a politician from my own hometown -- Senator Everett McKinley Dirksen of Illinois. That project took me to the Dirksen Congressional Center, where I fell in love with archives (and politics). From there, I processed parts of the Birch Bayh senatorial papers at Indiana University as a graduate student. During that time, I also interned in the Senate Historical Office where I gained experience working with electronic records and committee records. After graduation, I was a project archivist at the Indiana University Modern Political Papers Collection where I processed the papers of Senator Richard Lugar, Congressman Dan Burton, and Congressman Mike Pence. In 2014, I became political papers archivist at Drake University. My primary duties include processing the papers of Senator Tom Harkin and Congressman Neal Smith, as well as curating the Iowa Caucus Collection. In my role at Drake, I also work closely with the Harkin Institute for Public Policy and Citizen Engagement where I am able to assist in integrating the archival collections into their public policy work and outreach to local, national, and international communities.

*(continued on page 10)*

*(Hope Grebner, continued from page 9)*

### **What do you bring to the CPR Steering Committee?**

Commitment. Passion. Purpose.

I am committed to the task of collaborating with donors and potential donors to grow the volume of congressional collections and to increase the study of congress. I am passionate about making the legacy of these former public servants come to life through exhibits, presentations, lectures, and other initiatives. I see a clear purpose in my vocation and for CPR to find new and creative ways to make these collections more accessible and user friendly.

### **What would you like CPR to accomplish in the next 3-5 years?**

In addition to continuing CPR's exceptional work with electronic records, I would like to see the roundtable expand its outreach to scholars and researchers. I have spoken so many scholars from different disciplines who find that congressional collections might be of interest to their projects, but they either did not know that the collections existed or where to find them. This could include increasing our visibility at academic conferences and providing reference sessions to these groups. It could also be that CPR could expand its outreach through collaboration among member repositories to create original content like digital exhibits, teaching modules, and subject guides.

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## **Laura Litwer**

Title: Digital Initiatives Archivist

Institution: South Carolina Political Collections, University of South Carolina

Education: BA in History and MLIS, University of South Carolina

### **Biography**

Laura Litwer is the Digital Initiatives Archivist at South Carolina Political Collections (SCPC). She previously worked at Texas A&M University-Commerce, processing the papers of Congressman Ralph M. Hall, and as a temporary processing archivist and graduate assistant at South Carolina Political Collections. She holds a BA in History and MLIS from the University of South Carolina. She is a member of CPR's Electronic Records Committee and the Association of Centers for the Study of Congress.

### **What is your experience with congressional papers?**

I have been employed as the Digital Initiatives Archivist at SCPC since April 2015. My projects include processing the digital component of Congressman John M. Spratt's papers, working with the staff of congressional donors still in office, and organizing the digitization efforts of audiovisual materials in several congressional collections. My previous congressional papers experience includes spending almost 2 years processing the papers of Congressman Ralph M. Hall at Texas A&M University-Commerce and working with congressional collections during my time as a graduate assistant and temporary processing archivist at SCPC.

### **What do you bring to the CPR Steering Committee?**

My experience in spearheading the development of electronic records programs at both a dedicated congressional papers repository and at a special collections department with only one post-World War II congressional collection, along with my service on CPR's Electronic Records Committee, have enabled me to help the roundtable continue to address the electronic records issues faced by its members. My work experience has also allowed me to represent well the needs of both dedicated congressional papers repositories and small and medium-sized institutions holding modern political collections.

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(Laura Litwer, continued from page 10)

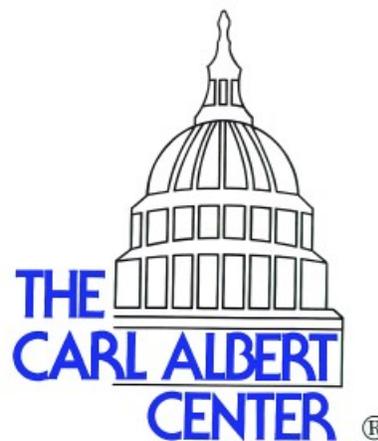
### What would you like CPR to accomplish in the next 3-5 years?

I would like to see increased programming in the areas of born-digital and digitized materials, outreach, and instruction, as well as further development of other roundtable resources related to working with born-digital materials.

## INSTITUTIONAL UPDATES

### Carl Albert Center Congressional Archives at the University of Oklahoma

The Carl Albert Center Congressional Archives recently launched the Mike Synar Collection with an insightful panel on the Congressman's Supreme Court case *Bowsher v. Synar*. The panel celebrated the 30th anniversary of the court case and the opening of Synar's congressional papers to the public. Many former staffers and Synar's sister, Edwyna, attended the panel and reception that followed. The archives staff enjoyed meeting the former staffers and hearing their personal stories about Synar. The collection is fully processed and the finding aid can be found online at [this link](#).



The Congress and the Constitution course that the Carl Albert Center administers with the University of Oklahoma Institute for American Constitutional Heritage has provided the archives' staff many exciting opportunities to assist undergraduate students with course-related research and to give in-class workshops on different archival skills. This semester, the course is focused on Congressman James R. Jones and the battle over the Reagan budget. The Congressional Archives put together a website highlighting research conducted during the semester which can be viewed at [this link](#).

The Center's exhibit on water policy, *WATER: Congressional Representation to Protect a Precious Resource*, continues to travel the state of Oklahoma. It showcases many interesting documents from the archive. Recently, the exhibit spent a month at OU as part of [#OUEarthMonth](#) and was profiled as part of this event on [USA Today](#). See where the exhibit is now and where it's headed to next on our [website](#).

— Rachel Henson

### Baylor Collections of Political Materials at the W. R. Poage Legislative Library

Several staff changes have occurred in the last few months. Debbie Davendonis-Todd has been promoted to Associate Director of BCPM, in addition to her duties as the Bob Bullock Archivist and assistant professor. Mary Goolsby has had her duties increased, and is now the Collections Archivist. Sylvia Hernandez has joined the staff as the new operations manager of the Graduate Research Center and Bill Hair has returned to the main libraries to be the Religion, Theology and Philosophy Librarian.

*(Baylor, continued from page 11)*

On March 3rd BCPM celebrated the official release of former U.S. Rep. Chet Edwards' Congressional Papers at a standing-room-only opening ceremony and reception. The Edwards Papers measure 212 linear feet and are contained in 341 boxes, which include his administrative records, district files, legislative records, press materials, materials about religious liberty, speeches and voting records.



*Media coverage included an interview with local NPR. From left: Chet Edwards, Carlos Morales, Debbie Davendonis-Todd*



This summer BCPM welcomes two fellows as part of the [Baylor Libraries Teaching Fellows Program](#). Dr. Brad Owens, a professor in the Baylor School of Communications conducted his research in June. Dr. Owens examined several congressional collections to prepare for use in a graduate seminar on the presidential race he will teach this fall. Following his week at BCPM, he remarked, “I gathered numerous examples of how racial dynamics worked in Rep. Poage's district and other Texas districts from the '30s through the '70s. These will help me set into context current debates about racial and other language that relates to social divisions and hierarchies.” Later this summer, Travis Synder, a PhD candidate in English will begin his research in July for a course he will teach in the spring on information literacy.



The John and JD Dowdy Conference Room at the Poage Library provides a wonderful space for faculty and staff synergy. The room is equipped with [ClickShare](#), a wireless presentation and collaboration system for meeting rooms, as well as both telephone and video conferencing capabilities.

The conference room is named in honor of Congressman John Dowdy and his wife, JD. The Dowdy family, Skip and Sarah Dowdy, and Carol Sue and Forrest Roberts, have established three endowments for the Poage Library to assist researchers, fund internships, and provide extras like the video conferencing equipment for this room.

The Poage Library is undergoing further renovations and space changes. We are continuing the vision of Bob Poage as he set forth at the dedication of the building in 1979, “I hope we never complete this library, but make it a living institution with continuous additions. I think it is a great idea to combine the legislative aspect with the graduate school to provide the maximum service to the maximum number of people.” Coming this fall, Poage Library will have a new reading room for researchers and student study, as well as a new Graduate Research Center on the second floor. This innovative 3,000-square-foot space will feature both stationary and movable furnishings, collaboration suites, and a visualization wall for [digital scholarship](#). — *Mary Goolsby*

*(Institutional Updates, continued from page 12)*

## **Dole Institute at the University of Kansas**



It has been another busy few months at the Dole Institute of Politics – we have hosted researchers and classes of all ages, opened two exhibits, awarded our research grants, and put on a White House-style Easter egg roll.

The first ever “Easter Egg Roll with Dole” was a smashing success, with over 500 people through the doors of the Dole Institute the day before Easter! Modeled after the annual White House Easter Egg Roll, our visitors engaged in egg hunts, egg rolls (a race to push an egg across a finish line), and even the ability to hold live rabbits! A great partnership with the local Lawrence Public Library offered storytime and crafts for families. This was a great event as it reached a new demographic of the public that we have been trying to target.

In May, the Dole Archives hosted sixty 8th graders from Ruppenthal Middle School in Russell, KS – Senator Dole’s hometown. They spent the afternoon touring the gallery and archives and discussing primary sources about the history of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The principal noted how valuable this trip was for his students – “Our students will remember this for the rest of their lives and will know in some small way what Mr. Dole meant to our society [Russell, KS].”



We engaged in research collaborations with two classes over the spring semester. High school seniors from Bishop Seabury’s honors politics class came for a research instruction and workshop in January and then returned throughout the spring to investigate topics like ADA, civil rights, Food for Peace, the Clean Air Act, and the Bosnian War. We also partnered with a class in KU’s Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies to provide research support for a class titled, “Food, Feminism, and Philosophy.” With instructor Liz Stigler, we designed an instruction session that introduced students to food related items in our collections. Students returned throughout the semester to research ads from WWII-era LIFE magazines, materials on the WIC program, agriculture-related foreign trips, recipes, and invitations featuring menus.

The 2016 research grants were awarded in April. Our \$2,500 Research Fellowship went to Caitlin Rathe, a Ph.D. candidate in History of Public Policy at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Her dissertation, “Food Assistance Policies and the Transformation of the Public/Private Welfare State in the U.S. and Britain, 1972-1988,” explores the shifting politics of hunger and welfare in the United States and

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*(Dole Institute, continued from page 13)*

Britain. In particular, she is using food assistance policies as a lens to examine how social provision changed during the 1970s and 1980s. We also awarded a \$750 travel grant to Richard Johnson, a Ph.D. candidate in Oxford University's Department of Politics and International Studies. Johnson will examine the role of the "Dole Compromise" in extending the Voting Rights Act in 1982 for his dissertation titled, "The Deracialization Strategy in Black Electoral Politics, 1989-2014." Support for these awards is made possible by the Friends of the Dole Institute.

A \$2,500 Curatorial Research Fellowship has been awarded to John Robert Greene, Paul J. Schupf Professor, History and Humanities, Cazenovia (N.Y.) College. Greene's research project, "Bob Dole and the Vice Presidential Campaign of 1976," will complement his contributions to the upcoming Dole Institute exhibit titled, "State to Nation: Dole for Vice President, 1976," which will open with a public program featuring Greene on August 14th. The fellowship and exhibit are both made possible by a generous grant from the Enid and Crosby Kemper Foundation.

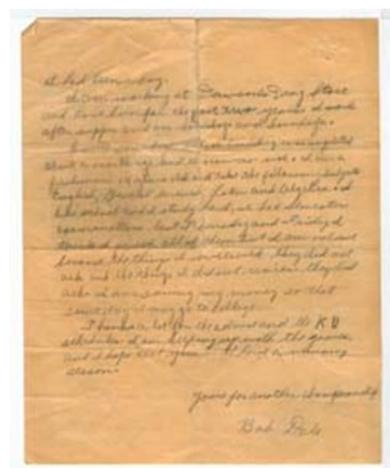
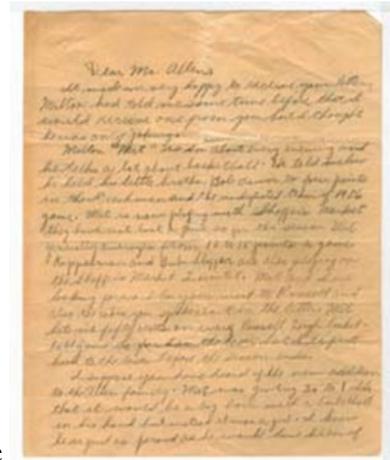
Lastly, we featured several small exhibits throughout 2016:

**"Writing Home: Bob Dole's Letters While at the University of Kansas"** celebrated KU's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary and looked back at the life of Bob Dole as an ordinary college student using letters he wrote to his parents.

**"Letters from a Leader: Phog Allen to Bob Dole, 1938-1939"** featured letters between legendary KU basketball coach Phog Allen and a young "Bobby" Dole, just 14 years old at the time. In them, Allen, a recruiter and mentor, affirms Dole's potential, ambition and call to public service, anticipating his success in national leadership by several decades. Dole, later a KU student, earned a spot on the freshman basketball team in 1941 and made the varsity cut a year later. All letters are from the collection of the University of Kansas University Archives, KU Libraries. The exhibit coincided with the KU 150 celebrations, a fundraising campaign to digitize the complete collection of the Phog Allen papers, and the opening of the DeBruce Center, home to James Naismith's Rules of Basketball.

**"Greetings from Kansas"** is a digital exhibit featuring selections from a collection of unique and quirky postcards given to Senator Dole by Lynda and Morgan Williams. The exhibit includes tall-tales post cards, scenes from Dole's hometown of Russell, political candidates, and much more. To visit the exhibit, please visit: <http://dolearchivecollections.ku.edu/collections/postcards/>.

— Sarah D'Antonio



*(Institutional Updates, continued from page 14)*

## **Modern Political Archives at the University of Mississippi**

The Modern Political Archives (MPA) completed work on the [James O. Eastland Collection](#) in October 2014. A Democrat, Eastland represented Mississippi in the U.S. Senate for a few months in 1941 by appointment after the death of Pat Harrison and then won the seat in his own right from 1943 until his retirement in 1978. He chaired the Judiciary Committee from 1956 until 1978 and was also a long-time member of the Agriculture Committee. The collection consists of 1,040 boxes and occupies 1,571 lin. ft.

A recent rotation in the main exhibit hall of the Archives & Special Collections provided MPA with the opportunity to fill eight cases with “The Contents of Congressional Collections...Explored through the Papers of U.S. Senator James O. Eastland.” Each case features some of the commonly held record types located in congressional papers: campaign material, legislation, issue correspondence, constituent services, public relations, federal assistance for state and local communities, committee work, and memorabilia. While the layout and text educates viewers on the wealth of historical resources available in such collections, interest is heightened with the inclusion with examples from VIP documents such as a lengthy issue letter from actor John Wayne on the Panama Canal Treaty, a request from artist Theora Hamblet for assistance in copyrighting her primitive paintings, or a communication from Chief Justice Warren Burger on a proposed change in judicial circuits.



To coincide with this exhibition, MPA has planned several programs in the fall. In a Brown Bag lunch program on September 13th, Ph.D. candidate Katrina Sims will discuss her use of the Eastland Collection



to explore federal grants in the history of the Taborian Hospital in the African American community of Mound Bayou, Mississippi. On the evening of September 29th, MPA will host an accredited Continuing Legal Education/Judicial Legal Education program entitled “Mr. Chairman: U.S. Senator James O. Eastland and the Judiciary Committee.” Historian David Hargrove will describe his review of the papers to examine the judicial selection process during research for his book on the U.S. District Courts of Mississippi. Former staff member James Ziglar will share insights into Eastland and his management of the Judiciary Committee.

With Justice Antonin Scalia’ death in early 2016, MPA installed two display cases on the main floor of the J.D. Williams Library with material from the Eastland Collection on Supreme Court nominations from 1968 to 1971. The exhibit traveled to the University of Mississippi Law School Library in April where it will remain up through the end of June. Additionally, a large display case on a main corridor of the library currently showcases an array of items from past Democratic and Republican national conventions.

*(continued on page 16)*

*(MPA, continued from page 15)*

Finally, MPA has opened Series 1 through 27 of the [Jamie L. Whitten Collection](#) to the public. A Democrat, Whitten served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1941 to 1995 and chaired the powerful Committee on Appropriations from 1979 to 1992. Chairing Appropriation's Agriculture Subcommittee since 1950, he became known as the "permanent Secretary of Agriculture" and the Department of Agriculture building on the National Mall is named in his honor. The entire collection encompasses approximately 2,000 linear feet, and MPA anticipates opening several more series before the end of 2016. One interesting feature of the finding aid is a chart indicating the time period when all or part of a county resided within the boundaries of Whitten's congressional districts (he represented the Second

District 1941-1972 and the First District 1973-1995). Redistricting occurred several times during Whitten's lengthy tenure in Congress, and the chart allows researchers of specific locales to determine the collection's potential usefulness for their topic. The chart is available in the introduction of the [Federal Assistance Series](#). — *Leigh McWhite*

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### University of Nebraska at Omaha

The Dr. C.C. and Mabel L. Criss Library is pleased to announce that the first portion of the U.S. Senator Chuck Hagel Archives is open to the public. Hagel (R-NE) was a U.S. senator from 1997 to 2009 and served in President Obama's cabinet as secretary of defense from 2013 to 2015. Researchers now have access to photographs, artifacts, schedules, and grant files. While schedules and grant files come only from his senate papers, the photographs and artifacts cover Hagel's senate and secretary of defense years, as well as his service in Vietnam, family life, and campaigns. Additional series will open next January. Visit [libguides.unomaha.edu/HagelArchives](http://libguides.unomaha.edu/HagelArchives). A few hundred of these items may be viewed online in three exhibits touching on Hagel's campaigns, his life through photos, and his busy senate schedule. See [hagel.omeka.net/exhibits](http://hagel.omeka.net/exhibits).



In the photograph from his Swearing-In Ceremony in January 1997, Hagel is reaching down to his young son, Ziller, who is busy pointing a camera back at the photographer — *Lori Schwartz*

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### South Carolina Political Collections at the University of South Carolina

Zach Johnson joins the staff on August 1 as its Special Projects Archivist. Johnson will process collections, oversee exhibits, and encourage use of SCPC by teachers and classes at USC and other SC schools. He will immediately renew SCPC's work processing the papers of John Spratt. Spratt represented South Carolina's 5th District in Congress from 1983 to 2011 and is remembered for his mastery of the federal budget. Johnson's first major exhibit will celebrate SCPC's 25th anniversary and contrast the state of congressional collecting in 1989 and 2016. Johnson is a graduate of the University of Tennessee with his Masters in Information Sciences. He has been at Rutgers University processing the papers of U.S. Senator Frank Lautenberg. Previously, he was with Vanderbilt where he worked on the papers of senators Lamar Alexander and Jim Sasser.— *Herb Hartsook*

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## **University of Nevada, Reno Special Collections and University Archives Paul Laxalt's Reagan Years: Campaigns, Elections and the Road to the White House**

*University of Nevada, Reno Special Collections and University Archives offers a new collection of materials showcasing Paul Laxalt and Ronald Reagan's friendship*



*Nevada U.S. Senator Paul Laxalt talks with President Reagan in the Oval Office.*

Often referred to by media as “the First Friend,” Nevada’s United States Senator Paul Laxalt’s friendship and working relationship with President Ronald Reagan was well known in its day. While much has been written about Reagan, few sources relating to Laxalt’s work overseeing Reagan’s presidential campaigns have been available to researchers.

The Reagan materials found in the extensive Paul Laxalt U.S. Senatorial Papers, housed in Special Collections & University Archives at the University of Nevada, Reno Libraries, are now open for use.

This project is made possible by a grant from the [U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services](#), administered by the [Nevada State Library and Archives](#). Available online is the [collection's guide](#) to the contents and a [selection of documents and photographs](#) which were digitized.

This portion of the Paul Laxalt U.S. Senatorial Papers covers the years 1975-1987 when Laxalt was Reagan’s national chairman for his presidential campaigns in 1976, 1980 and his reelection campaign in 1984. The election materials fill a void in depicting Reagan and Laxalt’s close friendship. They are comprised of correspondence, reports, scrapbooks, audio/visual resources and photographs, which provide a wealth of information for researchers.

Paul Laxalt, a longtime Republican public figure in Nevada, became a notable and highly visible player on the national political stage. The son of Basque immigrants, Laxalt rose through Nevada’s political ranks to governor before becoming the first Basque-American ever elected to the U.S. Senate (1974-1987). His tenure was marked by a dedication to conservative politics and his friendship with Ronald Reagan.



*Senator Paul Laxalt and Ronald Reagan share a laugh.*

“We are very grateful to have received the grant from the Nevada State Library and Archives which allowed us to hire a project archivist to organize and prepare these important historical political materials for use,” Jacquelyn Sundstrand, Special Collection’s manuscripts and archives librarian who oversaw the processing work for the collection, said. “We know that the Laxalt-Reagan friendship was extremely important to both men as well as to the state of Nevada within the American political scene. These materials compliment and expand our knowledge about what is already known concerning both Paul Laxalt and President Reagan’s legacies.”

To access the Paul Laxalt-Ronald Reagan manuscript collection guide and for the selected digitized collection, visit <http://innopac.library.unr.edu/record=b1297504~S1>.

For additional information concerning the Paul Laxalt and Ronald Reagan materials at the University, please contact Special Collections via email, [specoll@unr.edu](mailto:specoll@unr.edu), call 775-682-5665, or visit <http://knowledgecenter.unr.edu/specoll/>.

— *Jacque Sundstrand*