



# Congressional Papers Section

## NEWSLETTER

Society of American Archivists

Summer 2017

### 2017 CPS Elections

### A Message from the Chair

*By Danielle Emerling*

Earlier this year, graduate students in a public administration class joined me in the archives to study legislative memos related to the passage and implementation of the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), which Congress passed in 1997. Students immediately recognized the parallels between that program and current health policy debates and felt engaged in the legislative process in a way they rarely experience. One student commented: “Being surrounded by those pieces of paper, I felt like it put me in that place in time. It changes the context of how I understand the situation.”

I can’t think of a better affirmation for our work! The first half of 2017 has been a disorienting time in government and politics, and the records we preserve are even more vital for understanding the who, how, and why of policy creation and government decision making. Among other things, the materials we preserve offer lessons, guidance, and

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The CPS Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the 2017 slate of candidates for Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect, as well as two positions on the CPS Steering Committee. All candidates have significant experience with Congressional papers, in addition to a commitment to professional service. Please review the candidate information and personal statements beginning on page 3 of the newsletter in order to inform your decision.

Voting for the election will take place online, and will be hosted on the Society of American Archivists website. All those who are active members of the Congressional Papers Section are eligible to vote, and SAA staff will make online ballots accessible on a staggered basis to CPS members between June 26-28. The Nominating Committee will issue reminders about the ballot on the CPS listserv, and will announce the election results as soon as SAA makes them available. Ballots close, based on beginning date, between July 10-12. Anyone paying dues after June 30 will receive a ballot email from SAA. Also, be aware that spam-filtering may affect your ability to receive your ballot.

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

#### 2017 CPS Nominating Committee

Marc Levitt, Chair  
Hope Grebner Bibens  
Natalie Bond

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inspiration to our users and to the next generation of leaders.

I like to keep this in mind as I carry out the work of CPS, and much has been happening with our group.

As you know, our group name changed earlier this year. The “Congressional Papers Section” name is now reflected in our logo, microsite, and newsletter. SAA Council approved the move to call all affinity groups “sections” in June 2016 “to encourage flexible, inclusive, and participatory opportunities for the membership.”

Voting for the 2017 CPS elections will begin at the end of June, and candidate information can be found in this newsletter, as well as in a forum message from the Nominating Committee. The voting timeline for section elections is occurring earlier this year because of the annual meeting being the last week of July.

The *Archives 2017: alike/different* annual meeting offers four great days of learning and connecting with colleagues.

The CPS Day Program will take place on Wednesday, July 26, at the Oregon Historical Society. We will kick off the day with some great ideas for using your collections for instruction, followed by a discussion of political activism in a “post-factual world.” In the afternoon, we will hear from archivists about using data in collections and collections as data, and then we will work together to prioritize objectives in the CPS strategic plan. At the end of the day, we will receive hands-on training in born-digital processing with the Electronic Records Committee.

The full CPS Day schedule is printed in this newsletter. If you’re planning to join us, don’t forget to order lunch, provided courtesy of Bob Henderson of Hollinger Metal Edge. We are taking reservations at the following link until July 10: <http://bit.ly/2rnebpi>.

We will reconvene for the CPS Business Meeting on Friday, July 28, 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (location TBA). Because the business meeting is scheduled for a shorter time frame this year, we

will not have a presentation. However, we will still hear important reports from CPS committees and task forces, as well as from colleagues in the Center for Legislative Archives, U.S. Senate, U.S. House of Representatives, and Association of Centers for the Study of Congress.

The work of CPS is a group effort, and I am grateful to the wonderful members of the Steering Committee for their assistance throughout the year, especially with putting together the CPS Day Program. I would also like to thank Karen Paul and Leigh McWhite for co-chairing the Strategic Plan Task Force.

I have thoroughly enjoyed chairing CPS, and I am proud of all we have accomplished this year. Thank you for the opportunity to serve this group and the SAA. I look forward to seeing you in July!

## Your Chance to Influence the Future of CPS!

*By Leigh McWhite*

CPS exists to promote the preservation and use of congressional collections, an endeavor that has grown increasingly complex with the advent of the communications revolution. A strategic plan will help us to formulate an approach for tackling the challenges facing our members. Strategic planning is an organizational activity that develops priorities for the future in order to best focus the group’s resources towards common goals. The resulting proposal will also include specific outcomes which the organization can then evaluate to determine if the plan succeeded.

Created in late 2016, the CPS Strategic Plan Task Force has developed a [draft of a strategic plan](#) that will govern the allocation of our group’s energies and resources from 2017 to 2020. The document is modeled on the [SAA Strategic Plan for 2014-2018](#), copying both the visual layout as well as much of the language in defining the main goals: advocating for archives and archivists, enhancing professional growth, advancing the field, and meeting members’ needs.

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# CPS Election Candidates

## Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect

### Hope Grebner Bibens

Political Papers Archivist and Assistant Professor of Librarianship  
Drake University  
BA in History and 19<sup>th</sup> Century Studies, Monmouth College (IL)  
MA in American History, Indiana University Bloomington  
MLS, Indiana University Bloomington

#### *Biography*

Hope Grebner Bibens is Political Papers Archivist and Assistant Professor of Librarianship at Drake University Archives and Special Collections where she manages the political papers collections. Her CPS involvement includes serving on the Steering Committee and on the task force studying CSS Systems. In addition, she is also active in the Association of Centers for the Study of Congress where she serves as co-chair of the Communications Committee, chair of the Membership Task Force, and was a member of the task force that curated 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 teaching courses that focus on archival research and primary sources. 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.

#### *What do you bring to the CPS 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 CPS to find new and creative ways to make these collections more accessible and user friendly.

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

The section's work with electronic records is exceptional and should continue to grow through case studies, white papers, grant applications, and other endeavors. In addition to this, I would like to see us expand our outreach to scholars, researchers, and the general public. I have spoken to 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 CPS could expand its outreach through collaboration among member repositories to create original content like digital exhibits, teaching modules, and subject guides that could be used by a variety of audiences.

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*(Election Candidates continued from page 3)*

### Steering Committee (two openings)

#### **John Caldwell**

Senior Assistant Librarian and Political Papers Archivist  
University of Delaware Library, Museums and Press  
BA, History and French, Mount St. Mary's University, 2011  
MLS, University of Maryland, College Park, 2013

#### *Biography*

My first experience in archives came in congressional papers with an internship in the office of Senator Kent Conrad (D-ND) in 2012, and appraising paper records and creating inventories. I completed my field study at the Executive Office of the President, Library and Research Services, creating an in-house digitization program. After working as a contract archivist in various corporate archives, including the Consumer Technology Association and the World Bank Group Archives, I returned to the U.S. Senate for an internship in the Senate Historical Office, processing electronic committee records. From June 2015-June 2016, I was part of the National Digital Stewardship Residency (NDSR) Program, hosted by the Library of Congress. I was the NDSR in the Senate Historical Office, studying digital preservation practices in Senate committees and member offices, tested over two dozen digital preservation tools, and developed a set of digital preservation workflows for deployment in different Senate office environments. After completing my residency, I served as Archivist to Senator Harry Reid (D-NV), helping close his DC office and prepared approximately 10 TB of electronic data for transfer to his archival repository. On February 1, 2017, I began as Political Papers Archivist at the University of Delaware.

Since graduating from the University of Maryland, I have earned my Digital Archives Specialist Certificate and gained full certification through the Academy of Certified Archivists. I am a member of a working group studying CSS systems through CPS, and am currently serving on the Electronic Records Committee.

#### *Experience with Congressional Papers*

I have over three years of experience with congressional papers on Capitol Hill, having worked in two member offices appraising and processing both born-digital and paper records; and a year

and a half in the Senate Historical Office working with born-digital committee records. I started in my current position at the University of Delaware in February 2017.

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

I am a dedicated, hard-working and enthusiastic archivist who is incredibly passionate about archiving, politics and electronic records. Having worked both on and off Capitol Hill, I am familiar with the divergent procedures and particularities of creating, managing and preserving congressional records in both environments. Having this holistic view of the archival life cycle for congressional collections gives me a unique perspective on the value of the CPS and the variety of communities we work with and the myriad needs we seek to meet on a daily basis. Over the last two and a half years, I have worked almost exclusively with born-digital congressional papers, a critical area for further exploration and collaboration in our community as modern collections include a higher percentage of born-digital and made-digital records. These experiences have allowed me to develop a comfort, willingness and ability to communicate with all necessary stakeholders, from record creators and member chiefs of staff to processing archivists and repository IT staff.

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

In the next five years, I think that CPS should work to 1) increase the collaboration with similarly-minded groups within and outside SAA (Electronic Records Section, ACSC, Government Records Section, NAGARA); 2) develop new outreach and advocacy activities to reach members of Congress, and expand the constituency to include state and local legislative records preservation; 3) establish a single, unified repository for Congressional collections information and resources (something along the lines of a cross between Congressional Biographical Directory, WorldCat and GitHub); and 4) grow the diversity of our community (both in terms of institutions with congressional papers, members preserving their records and congressional archivists).

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*(Election Candidates, continued from page 4)*

## Shae Rafferty

Congressional Records Archivist  
Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan  
BA in History and Psychology, University of Michigan  
MSI, University of Michigan

### *Biography*

Shae Rafferty is the Congressional Records Archivist at the Bentley Historical Library. She holds a BA and a MSI with a specialization in Archives and Records Management from the University of Michigan. She is also a member of the Midwest Archives Conference and has served on their Symposium Organizing Committee (SOC).

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

I have been employed as the Congressional Records Archivist at the Bentley Historical Library since March 2015. My experience includes processing the papers of Congressman John Dingell and Senator Carl Levin, both Chairmen of impactful committees during their terms in Congress. These collections include over 2,000 linear feet including committee documents, 3TB of born digital material, and thousands of audio-visual materials. In this capacity, I have also consulted with a variety of congressional staffers and government papers archivists about important issues concerning accessioning, arrangement and description, and access to congressional papers.

### *What do you bring to the steering committee?*

I bring energy, creativity, a strong drive for progress, and a great attention to detail to the steering committee. I have a passion for political records and would love the opportunity to serve on the steering committee and help ensure we are doing our best to promote congressional collections, as well as support those who collect the papers of our nation's leaders.

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

I would like to see CPS work to increase communication between archivists working with congressional collections, both in terms of collaboration and support. This communication, through

email or perhaps occasional meetings (either local gatherings or virtual through phone, google hangout, etc.) setup to allow members to ask questions of each other centered around particular concerns or collaboration ideas that arise throughout the year. I would also like CPS to consider the skills of its members and potential ways to leverage these skills to aid the Section and individual Section members.



## ACSC Annual Meeting May 10-12, 2017: A Recap

*By Elisabeth Butler, Senate Historical Office,  
and John Caldwell, University of Delaware*

This month, the [Association of Centers for the Study of Congress \(ACSC\)](#) held its annual meeting at the [Library of Congress](#) in one of its beautiful meeting rooms in the Jefferson Building. ACSC is an independent alliance of more than 50 political papers collecting organizations and institutions that promotes the history and understanding of the U.S. Congress. Since many ACSC members are also CPS members, John Caldwell, former Senate Historical Office Fellow and now of the University of Delaware, and I thought we should do a blog post on the meeting! The meeting featured some great sessions on the theme of “connecting and communicating;” a keynote by Dr. Colleen Shogan, Deputy Director of the Library’s National and

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*(Future of CPS, Continued from page 2)*

The Key Performance Indicators are where the two plans diverge, as our draft outlines specific measurable activities that CPS might choose to pursue over the coming years. While the Task Force believes that all these goals have merit, we recognize that their implementation relies upon the enthusiasm of a relatively small membership with prior professional commitments which may limit the amount of time and energy available for these projects. It only make sense to restrict the key performance indicators to a smaller, more achievable number of goals that are prioritized according to members' stated interests.

Our first step in obtaining feedback on the matter came from a survey distributed by email to the CPS discussion list which asked members to rank the key performance indicators in each area and also provided an opportunity for more general comments. Fourteen individuals responded, and the current draft of the strategic plan reflects the preferred priorities as indicated by the survey results. The top three indicators in each section are highlighted to emphasize that only the top three activities are guaranteed a spot in the strategic plan. Lower ranked projects may still appear on the document if members voice strong support and interest in these goals (indicating a willingness to personally volunteer and participate in the activities). ALL the current rankings are open to change based upon further input from members.

Please take a few minutes to review the [Draft: Congressional Papers Section Strategic Plan 2017-2020](#) and send any feedback (from preferred priorities, wording, or typos!) to both of the co-chairs: Leigh McWhite ([slmcwhit@olemiss.edu](mailto:slmcwhit@olemiss.edu)) and Karen Paul ([karen\\_paul@sec.senate.gov](mailto:karen_paul@sec.senate.gov)).

Members attending the CPS pre-conference program in Portland on July 26th will have yet another opportunity to influence the final document and the rankings of the key performance indicators as the co-chairs moderate a session on our group's priorities.

## Congressional Papers Section Business Meeting

*Friday, July 28, 2017  
11:15 a.m.—12:30 p.m.  
Location TBA*

### Agenda:

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**11:15 Welcome, Report of the Chair**  
*Danielle Emerling*

**11:25 Group/Liaison Reports:**  
Nominations and Elections Committee  
Electronic Records Committee  
Diversity Task Force  
Center for Legislative Archives  
U.S. Senate  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Association of Centers for the Study of Congress

**12:05 Discussion of CPS Strategic Plan**

**12:15 Discussion of CSS/CMS Task Force white paper**

**12:25 Introduction of incoming CPS chair Debbie Davendonis-Todd**

**12:30 Adjourn**

# Congressional Papers Section Day Program

Wednesday, July 26, 2017, 9 a.m.—5 p.m.

Oregon Historical Society | 1200 SW Park Avenue | Portland, OR 97205

**9:00-9:15**    **Welcome**

*Danielle Emerling, Chair*

**9:15-10:30**    **Archivists in the Classroom: Using Your Collections for Instruction**

Archivists from across the country will discuss how they develop relationships with faculty, engage with specific courses, or create their own course offerings using primary sources. They will also provide examples of activities and assignments and how the exercises could be adapted at other repositories.

*Panelists:*

Kris Bronstad, University of Tennessee Libraries  
Nathan Gerth, Carl Albert Center, The University of Oklahoma  
Robin Katz, University of California Riverside  
Marc Levitt, National Naval Aviation Museum  
Heather Smedberg, University of California San Diego Library

*Moderator:*

Hope Grebner Bibens, Drake University

**10:30-10:45**    **Break**

**10:45-12:00**    **Collecting Political Activism: Diversity and Archives in a Post-Factual World**

This panel will interrogate notions of diversity in archival practice through the context of collecting political activism. We will critically examine, via speakers and group discussion, how archivists can leverage the power of political and Congressional collections that we hold in our custody to inform current post-election/post-factual conversations and movements.

*Panelists:*

Marjorie Bryer, The Bancroft Library, University of California Berkeley  
Michelle Caswell, University of California Los Angeles, Department of Information Studies  
Danielle Russell, Women's March on Washington Archives Project  
Katrina Vandeven, Women's March on Washington Archives Project

*Moderators:*

Natalie Bond, University of Montana  
Amy Fitch, Rockefeller Archive Center  
Tammi Kim, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

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*(CPS Program, Continued from page 7)*

**12:00-1:15 Lunch**

Order lunch, provided courtesy of Bob Henderson of Hollinger Metal Edge, by July 10 at: <http://bit.ly/2rnebpi>.

**1:15-2:00 Speed Data**

Have you always wanted to get to know data, but you are a bit shy? Stop being a wall-flower and get out there and meet that data head on! If you don't like the first data set you encounter, you might find you have more in common with the next one. We promise you will come away with a dream data experience by the end of this session.

*Moderator:*

Alison White, U.S. Senate Historical Office

**2:00-2:15 Break**

**2:15-3:00 CPS Strategic Plan**

The CPS Strategic Plan Task Force has developed a draft document outlining the goals of our organization over the next few years. The document mirrors the language and organization of the SAA Strategic Plan; however, the key performance indicators in our plan outline specific objectives for CPS to complete. Help the Task Force prioritize these indicators and objectives and shape the future of CPS.

*Moderators:*

Leigh McWhite, University of Mississippi

Karen Paul, U.S. Senate Historical Office

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

**3:15-4:45 Hands-on Introduction to Born-Digital Processing**

Join the CPS Electronic Records Committee for a guided tutorial of some of the most popular born-digital processing tools and practice with prepared exercises. The ERC recommends bringing a laptop but will have some equipment to share.

*Facilitators:*

CPS Electronic Records Committee members

**4:45-5:00 Wrap-up**

**5:00-6:00 Steering Committee Meeting at the OHS**



*(ACSC Recap, Continued from page 5)*

International Outreach, on the Library's core strategies related to the development and execution of its extensive outreach initiatives; a bit of "SpeedGeeking," a fun learning and networking exercise; and thoughts and insights from congressional celebrities. We took notes on the sessions we thought would be of interest to CPS members.

ACSC was honored to host Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) who is an avid proponent of preserving the records of Congress. In 1991, Senator McConnell founded the McConnell Center at the University of Louisville to "nurture Kentucky's next generation of great leaders," with programs focusing on service, leadership and civic education. The Center is also the home of the Senator Mitch McConnell and Elaine L. Chao Archives. The Senator has been sending records periodically to the archive since the 1990s, and has had a professional archivist on his staff to assist in this process. The Senator regularly sits down with Deborah Skaggs Speth, the curator of his archives, to record an oral history of his time in leadership. His wife, former Secretary of Labor and sitting Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao, has also donated her personal papers to the archive.

When asked what advice he would give on the value of archiving, the Senator said that he would tell fellow members "you are more important than you think you are." Members of Congress do things of great importance with wide-ranging consequences, and it's important for members to preserve their role in these events through archiving.



Deborah Skaggs Speth (McConnell Archives) with Senator Mitch McConnell

In addition, ACSC always showcases former Members of Congress. This year's was former Rep. Barney Frank and his long-serving Chief of Staff Peter Kovar. During the time with Rep.

Frank, we learned about his experiences while in office, the sense of "legislative fellowship" that exists on the Hill, and his view that there is a lack of understanding of how the constituency drives the decisions and actions of Congressional members.



(Left—right) Peter Kovar, Representative Barney Frank, and moderator Ray Smock

Not many people are aware that the Library of Congress is itself a congressional repository, a fact which was underlined in the session on the Library's venerable Manuscripts Division. The Division has 900 congressional collections, which date from the 18th century to the present. First up was Connie Cartledge, Senior Archives Specialist, who talked about how the Division processes its congressional papers, with a focus on the Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan and Rep. Jack Kemp papers. They survey the papers, prepare a processing plan, mostly process to the folder level, and decide on the arrangement of series. Cartledge illustrated her talk with slides showing the two collections going through the laborious process of archival processing. So what happens to the digital materials in these collections? Kathleen O'Neill, Senior Archives Specialist, spoke on this topic. Like most archival institutions, the Division is seeing more and more unique born digital materials in the recent collections and are facing the same issues of PII, scale, and ensuring authenticity and access to researchers. It uses digital forensic tools to produce reports and analysis on records, observes the "original order" rule, is committed to bit-level preservation, and serves up digital collections in "bags" to researchers. Intellectual order happens in the finding aid. Another speaker, Ryan Reft, gave an overview of the history and contents of the Division's congressional collec-

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(ACSC Recap, Continued from page 9)

tion section, but remarked that the Division is now shifting its focus on collecting the papers of the more significant political actors and related campaign and interest groups.

So how have congressional collections been used in the past year? The session “Researchers, Teachers, Oh My!” featured Hope Grebner Bibens, Political Papers Archivist at Drake University, a graduate student Caitlin Rathe, and Brad Owens, a lecturer in journalism. Grebner Bibens spoke on how she uses the Senator Tom Harkin collection to create courses for students on archives and studying how Congress works. Rathe, whose dissertation focuses on the development of food assistance policy from the 1960s to 1980s in the U.S. and United Kingdom, talked about her research in various institutions, including the Senator Robert and Elizabeth Dole Institute, which she found particularly useful for studying farm policy. Of note was her observation that studying the Dole papers helped her trace the thinking that shaped food policy and what Congress’ intent was at the time. Finally, Owens told how he used the papers of his district’s 1930s-1940s Congressman, especially constituent correspondence, to teach his students about the “game of politics” and to be the source of stories for debate. In the course of his research he discovered materials on racial attitudes and their influence on local politics which he found especially fascinating. All the speakers agreed that researchers must be open-minded with the materials because you never know what you may find!

In the session “Creating Connections with Existing Collections,” we heard from three individuals who are experimenting with new forms of use and access to existing archival resources. Jaime Mears, a Program Officer in the Library of Congress’ National Digital Initiatives office, talked about the education and outreach her office does. In the last year, they’ve developed a “hack to learn” event, teaching archivists and information professionals how to develop tools to perform complex computational analysis on existing data. They also hosted a data summit in September 2016, inviting librarians and archivists to tackle the daunting but vitally important role of “archives as data.” Leah Weinryb Grohsgal, a Senior Program Officer at the National Endow-

ment of the Humanities, talked about the *Chronicling America* national digital newspaper program which has digitized over 12 million newspaper pages. They recently hosted a data challenge, allowing users to take the API (application program interface) for *Chronicling America* and develop an open source tool to analyze the data. The grand prize winner designed a tool to analyze the use of biblical quotes in newspapers. Finally, Andrew Wilson, National Archives’ Director of Digital Engagement, talked about its Innovation Hub, where citizens can become archivists and transcribe digitized records or scan their own to contribute to the National Archives Catalog.

Friday morning afforded us two incredible sessions: the first—“Wikipedia and Civic Engagement”—discussed the value of Wikipedia in civil discourse, the hosting of Wikipedia edit-a-thons to enhance Wikipedia’s accuracy by correcting or adding articles, and the use of the Wikidata platform to add data elements to articles which cross all of the Wikipedia language-specific libraries. For instance, P485 is the Wikidata property “archives at;” using this attribute, we can link finding aids to existing articles (regardless of language), both increasing access to holdings and validating the information in Wikipedia.

The second Friday session, “Digital Preservation at the Library of Congress,” was on the Library of Congress’ involvement in a range of digital preservation initiatives. Kate Murray, from Digital Collections and Management Services, talked about the Federal Agencies Digital Guidelines Initiative, a collaborative effort of more than 20 federal agencies which are working to set standards and develop tools to preserve both reformatted and born-digital records. Ted Westervelt from the Acquisitions and Bibliographic Access Directorate, talked about the Recommended Formats Statement, which is a list of criteria to look at when preserving both analog and digital materials. The statement is not prescriptive, but rather gives institutions a set of practices and standards to use when measuring long-term preservation needs. Abbie Grotke, a member of the Web Archiving team, talked about the value of having an active web archiving program. Specifically, Grotke spoke about the challenges of selecting the resources to preserve and how to manage and

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*(ACSC Recap, Continued from page 10)*

make accessible over one petabyte of web content. Abigail Potter, a Senior Innovation Specialist from the National Digital Initiatives Division, gave attendees a history of the National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation (NDIIP) program and its successors. NDIIP was an important outlet for cultural heritage institutions, providing guidance, sharing tools, and fostering partnerships in digital preservation.

The Library of Congress panel also included a presentation from Elizabeth England, the National Digital Stewardship Resident at Johns Hopkins University. Elizabeth's project focuses on developing a preservation program for 12 TB of born digital photographs. Elizabeth walked the audience through her project, explaining her appraisal decisions (including sampling the collection for retention), sharing the functionality of two Python scripts to automate the accessioning process, and open access tools like Open Refine to clean up her data. This presentation was particularly valuable for our community, which is used to dealing with vast amounts of photographs in collections.

This year's ACSC meeting was a wonderful mix of sessions that really spoke to the need of connecting with one another and communicating the value of our collections with researchers, students, and the public at large. There was a strong emphasis on digital records and how current technology can help us process, preserve, and use them, and we were especially fortunate to hear how the Library of Congress is contributing to that effort.

The full conference agenda is available [here](#). There is also a great [blog post](#) on a session at last year's ACSC conference.

*This article was adapted from an Electronic Records Committee [blog post](#).*

## INSTITUTIONAL UPDATES

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### University of West Florida

The UWF Archives and West Florida History Center, John C. Pace Library, University of West Florida, Pensacola, has received the papers of Congressman Jeff Miller who served as U. S. Representative for Florida's 1st congressional district from 2001-2017. These materials, approximately 45 cubic feet, also include several terabytes of e-mail and other Congressional materials. The collection is closed for five years with an extended restriction on parts that are case files or confidential materials.

The Archives also holds the papers of Congressman Robert L. F. Sikes (1941-1979), and Congressman Earl Hutto (1979-1994).

For more information, contact Dean DeBolt, University Archivist/Librarian ([ddebolt@uwf.edu](mailto:ddebolt@uwf.edu)) or 850-474-2213.

*- Dean DeBolt*

### Tulane University

David Vitter (1961-present, left), papers (1992-2016), 85 linear feet.



David Bruce Vitter, Republican, served as a member of the Louisiana House of Representatives (1992-1999), the U. S. House of Representatives from Louisiana's 1st district (1999-2005), and the U. S. Senate (2005-2016).

Louisiana Research Collection acquired the Vitter papers in January. It normally takes more than a year to organize senatorial papers, but due to the generous financial support of Senator Vitter, the collection is now organized and [available to researchers](#).

*- Leon Miller*

## West Virginia University

The West Virginia University Libraries opened an exhibit honoring the 20th anniversary of the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) during Congress Week in April 2017.

“A Healthy Start: The Children’s Health Insurance Program” draws on Senator Jay Rockefeller’s congressional archives to explore the history of CHIP, his work to navigate the conflicts and compromises in Congress that brought it to fruition, and the real effects of policy on individuals.

On August 5, 1997, President Bill Clinton signed CHIP into law, extending health coverage to millions of uninsured children with the largest federal investment in children’s health since the creation of Medicaid in 1965. Senator Rockefeller was instrumental in creating CHIP and in forming a bipartisan coalition in Congress that backed the expansion of children’s health care despite an inimical political climate.

During his 30-year Senate career (1985-2015), Rockefeller became known as a leader for health care reform; an advocate for improving the lives of children and working families; and a supporter of the nation’s soldiers, veterans, and senior citizens. He served as chair of the Committee on Veterans Affairs; the Select Committee on Intelligence; the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation; and the Committee on Finance Subcommittee on Medicare and Long-term Care. He also served as vice-chair of the Select Committee on Intelligence.



The CHIP exhibit on display in the WVU Libraries’ Rockefeller Gallery in April 2017.

The exhibition, sponsored by WVU Libraries and the WVU John D. Rockefeller IV School of Policy and Politics, will be on display in September 2017 for the Children’s Health Policy Summit at WVU. The Summit will reflect on past accomplishments and consider the present and future health care environment. Former Senator Jay Rockefeller will be the keynote speaker.

- Danielle Emerling

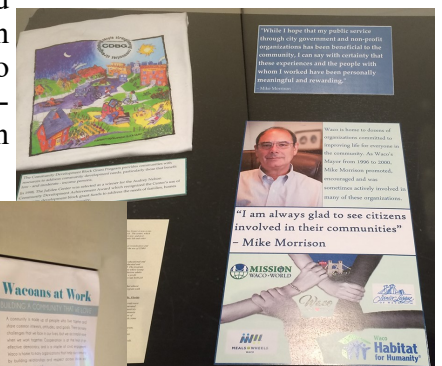
## Baylor University

The W. R. Poage Legislative Library’s new director, Debbie Davendonis-Todd was promoted March 23. Debbie has responsibility for the Baylor Collections of Political Materials, the Bob Bullock Archive and the Graduate Research Center.



Former Congressman and the W. R. Poage Distinguished Chair of Public Service at Baylor Chet Edwards spoke at the Civic Life Summit: Doing Democracy Differently, held June 1-2. His closing keynote speech, “Hope in an Age of Cynicism,” drew from his congressional experience and

from his friend Rep. John Lewis’ powerful book, “Walking with the Wind” A Memoir of the Movement.” Poage Library was a co-sponsor of the event that several hundred people attended. An exhibit component to the summit was prepared by Erik Swanson for the Poage Foyer.



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We are gearing up to participate in the iEngage Civics Summer Institute for the sixth year this August 1. Approximately 100 fifth through eighth graders will attend the week-long camp. Poage Library will assist with teaching them how to be an advocate from being a community activist to running for office.



For the last 18 months we have been re-processing legacy collections for their input into CuadraSTAR, or as we call it locally the Baylor Archival Repository Database (BARD). The congressional papers we have finished to date include, Chet Edwards, Ed Lee Gossett, Alan Steelman, and Hatton Sumners.

- Mary Goolsby

## University of Kansas

The Dole Archives has acquired a big collection, celebrate Easter White House-style, awarded its Research Fellowship and History Day prizes, and opened an exhibit in 2017 – and it’s only June!

Senator Elizabeth Dole donated her papers to us in March. They span her long career in public service, including her years as commissioner on the Federal Trade Commission, U.S. Secretary of Transportation, U.S. Secretary of Labor, president of the American Red Cross and a U.S. Senator representing the state of North Carolina. This represents a new chapter for the Dole Archives, and to honor that we have been renamed the Robert and Elizabeth Dole Archive and Special Collections.

The Dole Institute also created the Elizabeth Dole Women in Leadership Lecture series in her honor. Senator Elizabeth Dole delivered the inaugural lecture on Sunday, April 30. The signature series will take place in the fall semester beginning in 2018 and will feature women who break barriers, make significant contributions to their fields and reach positions of leadership.



Around 600 people visited the Dole Institute on April 15th for the 2nd annual Easter Egg Roll with Dole! Modeled after the annual White House Easter Egg Roll, visitors engaged in egg hunts, egg rolls, and museum scavenger hunts. There were even live bunnies! Our partners, the local Lawrence Public Library offered story time and crafts. We reached a new demographic of the public and highly promoted our K-12 and education offerings, making this event a smashing success!

Dr. Douglas B. Harris, a professor of political science at Loyola University Maryland, is our 2017 Dole Archives Research Fellow. He will be visiting sometime in the coming year for his project, “Selecting the Senate Leader: Bob Dole’s 1984 Race for Senate Floor Leader and Its Consequences for Senate Leadership.”



This spring we also awarded the Robert J. Dole Congressional History Prize at the Kansas History Day state contest. Zoe Self from Fort Scott High School won 1st prize this year for the senior individual performance, “The Ballot is my

(Dole, continued from page 13)

Birthright.” From Lawrence High School, Quentin Harrington and Benjamin Matthews’ exhibit, “Benjamin Franklin: Standing for the American Identity,” earned 2nd prize; and 3rd prize went to Chisholm Trail Middle School’s Sam Stoeck for the website, “Alexander Hamilton: Creating and Supporting our New Government.” Projects that focus on the history of Congress, a piece of legislation, or use material from the Dole Archives are eligible for the prize.

On May 7, we debuted the special exhibit, “The League of Wives: Vietnam’s POW/MIA Allies & Advocates.” It tells the story of Sybil Stockdale, Phyllis Galanti, Louise Mulligan, Helene Knapp, and Jane Denton – courageous military wives who formed the National League of POW/MIA Families, and worked with Congress and the Nixon administration to demand accounting for their husbands and pursue their safe return after years of imprisonment and torture by the North Vietnamese. Virginia-based historian and 2017 Dole Archives Curatorial Fellow Heath Hardage Lee curated the exhibition, which is based on her upcoming book, *The League of Wives: A True Story of Survival and Rescue from the Vietnam Homefront*, due for release in 2019 by St Martin’s Press. The exhibit team also included Kristine Bartley, filmmaker and herself a Vietnam war wife, and Minda Stockdale, assistant curator and granddaughter of National League founder



The League of Wives exhibit on display in the Dole Archives’ reading room in May 2017.

Sybil Stockdale and Admiral Jim Stockdale, as well as staffs of the Dole Institute, Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum, and Virginia Historical Society. The exhibition will open at the Pioneers Museum in March 2018 and at the Virginia Historical Society in

early 2019. Each institution will customize the exhibition with materials from their own collections. The exhibition’s tour schedule beyond 2019 is still in development. A \$50,000 gift from Harlan and Alice Ann Ochs of Colorado Springs, Colorado has funded the project. The gift honors Harlan Ochs’ late brother, Larry Ochs, former mayor of Colorado Springs and a strong advocate for the POW/MIA cause.

The exhibit’s opening included an afternoon program, “Your Story, His Story, the Legacy: Vietnam’s POW/MIA Wives,” with Heath Lee and POW/MIA wives Helene Knapp and Jenny Robertson. Access video of the program at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oSA8OJHzLb4>.



(Left—right) Audrey Coleman, Heath Hardage Lee, Helene Knapp, and Jenny Robertson discuss POW/MIA wives’ leadership efforts during the Vietnam War, from breaking public silence to international diplomacy.

- Sarah D’Antonio Gard