



# Congressional Papers Section

N E W S L E T T E R

Society of American Archivists

Summer 2019 Edition

## Message from the Chair

*Hope Bibens*

Dear CPS Colleagues,

Happy Summer, CPS!

I'm writing to you all from home on a humid, sunny day in Iowa. Fans are blowing and the air conditioning repairman is drilling away outside. Sitting here and sweating has given me some time to reflect on what Congress must have been like in the days before air conditioning! No wonder they take a recess in August!

I hope you are looking forward to Archives\*Records 2019 at the JW Marriott Austin, July 31-August 6. This year's CPS Day will be held on Friday, August 2 at the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History on the campus of the University of Texas at Austin from 9:00 am-5:00pm. I know that this is a departure from the traditional schedule and that people may need to arrive to Austin earlier than they originally planned. I apologize for any inconvenience that this may cause, but with the new SAA meeting schedule, holding our event on a weekday was our best option for reserving a space. It will also give CPS members the ability to attend other section meetings or explore the city on Saturday. Some highlights of the day will include the Electronic Records Committee leading a session on committee records and we'll also hear an update on the America Contacts Congress Project. This year, the business meeting will also take place during CPS Day. Stay tuned for more details!

As usual, I dug into the Harkin Papers to see if I

### In This Issue:

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Message from Chair.....   | 1   |
| America Contacts Congress Report.....   | 2   |
| 2019 ACSC Meeting Recap.....  | 2-3 |
| 2019 CPS Elections.....   | 3-5 |
| 6th Report of the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress, Senate View..... | 8   |

### Institutional updates:

|                               |     |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| West Virginia University..... | 6   |
| Drake University.....         | 7   |
| Shepherd University.....      | 7-8 |
| Senate Historical Office..... | 8   |

could find a good quote that would be appropriate for our annual meeting in Texas. Senator Harkin has often referred to a trip to Austin as a "pilgrimage" for anyone who studies the Senate and boasts that he "could give a tour of the LBJ Library blindfolded." I hope to see you all in the Lone Star state soon!

Hope

# “America Contacts Congress” Project Announces Project Results, Next Steps

*Danielle Emerling, West Virginia University  
Jodi Allison-Bunnell, AB Consulting*

In May, West Virginia University Libraries wrapped up the “America Contacts Congress” project, a one-year feasibility study that tackled the thorny problem of preserving and making available data from the CMS/CSS systems that U.S. Congress offices use to manage constituent correspondence. The project documented a clear need for the beta tool that WVU has developed, evaluated the research potential in the data, and proposed an innovative approach to facilitating access to the data that could well serve as a model for other large data sets held in archives. For more details about the findings and next steps, please see <https://bit.ly/2PFH6z6r>.

During the Congressional Papers Section meeting at the Society of American Archivists annual meeting in August, project leaders will do additional in-depth work with the community and advance questions about next steps.

Advisory Board members for the project were Hope Bibens, Drake University; Natalie Bond, The University of Montana; John Caldwell, University of Delaware; Nathan Gerth, the University of Nevada Reno; Brandon Pieczko, Richard B. Russell Library for Political Research and Studies at the University of Georgia; and Alison White, the United States Senate Historical Office. Additionally, members of the Association of the Centers for the Study of Congress and the Society of American Archivists’ Congressional Papers Section participated in workshops, focus groups, and user testing sessions.

The project was based on the needs documented in the white paper produced by members of the CPS in 2017, Archiving Constituent Services Data of the US Congress.

LYRASIS, one of the nation’s largest non-profit

member organizations serving archives, libraries, and museums, awards the Catalyst Fund to foster innovation among members and knowledge communities worldwide. The project was among six funded in 2018.

---

## 2019 ACSC Meeting Recap

*Hope Bibens*

The Center for Legislative Archives at the National Archives and Records Administration hosted the 2019 ACSC Annual Meeting with the theme, “Representative Government and Political Polarization.” Following the precedent of the 2018 meeting, a pre-conference workshop was held again this year to provide members the opportunity to be trained to lead a deliberative forum.

Outgoing ACSC President, Jay Wyatt opened the meeting by introducing the newly elected officers Hope Bibens (President), John Caldwell (Vice President), Danielle Emerling (Treasurer), and Lori Schwartz (Secretary). Joanne Freeman then delivered the keynote address on her latest book, *The Field of Blood: Violence in Congress and the Road to the Civil War*. She detailed forgotten physically violent incidents on the floor of Congress during the extremely polarized pre-Civil War years and how new technologies like the telegraph changed national politics.

Panels explored new ways to engage teachers, how to effectively evaluate your programming, and ideas for successful programming. The CSS Task Force gave an update on the America Contacts Congress Grant Project and sought input about future directions for the project. This year’s meeting also included a founders’ panel where those present at the creation of ACSC shared their thoughts on the ideas that led to the formation of the organization, how the ideas were realized, and hopes for the future. Other sessions featured research in congressional collections by historians and political scientists, including a recent publication, *Robert H. Michel: Leading the Republican House Minority*

(University Press of Kansas, Spring 2019) edited by Frank H. Mackaman and Sean Q Kelly. Authors of several different chapters of the book as well as the publisher were on hand to talk about the project.

Senators Tom Harkin and Chuck Grassley were interviewed by Senate Historian Betty Koed, and they demonstrated how two members of Congress from different political parties could work together for over 40 years. As usual, it was great to hear from colleagues during the speedgeeking session and to catch up with everyone at dinner at The Hamilton. If you are interested in becoming a member of ACSC or getting more involved, contact Hope Bibens at [hope.bibens@drake.edu](mailto:hope.bibens@drake.edu).

## Congressional Papers Section Elections 2019

### Steering Committee 2 Open Positions

#### Candidates:

**Zach Johnson**  
**Curator of Special Collections**  
**Vanderbilt University**

I am the Curator of Special Collections for Vanderbilt University and I am responsible for soliciting and processing collections of all types and managing our instance of ArchivesSpace. I have a B.A. in Honors History (2013) and earned my M.S. in Information Sciences (2014) from the University of Tennessee. I have worked on the papers of a number of politicians in my time as an archivist, including those of Senators Lamar Alexander and Jim Sasser (Vanderbilt University), Senator Frank Lautenberg (Rutgers University), and Speaker of the SC House Sol Blatt (University of South Carolina). In my current role at Vanderbilt, I am committed to acquiring, processing, and providing access to congressional papers so that researchers from all over can see the value in these collections.

As a relatively new member of the Congressional Papers Section, I am nonetheless deeply interested in political archives and in improving the professional resources for archivists who work on these collections. I bring a wide range of experience working with political papers at different institutions and technical knowledge in contextualizing congressional papers within an institution's larger archival collections. In the next three years, I would like to see CPS pursue the following goals: continue the excellent groundwork laid by the American Contacts Congress project to create an open-source tool that all archives could use; support the creation of digital and tangible connections between institutions that hold congressional collections to better serve researchers and increase accessibility; create resources that help contextualize congressional collections' place within the larger lifecycle of political discourse that is documented in congressional and non-congressional collections alike.

**Rebecca Sherman****Project Archivist for the Sam Nunn Papers****Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives and Rare Book Library, Emory University**

I am a project archivist at Emory University's Rose Library, where I have been processing the papers of Sam Nunn for the past three years. Previously, I worked as an archivist at the Georgia Archives and during graduate school worked at the N.C. State University Special Collections Library. In 2018 I became a member of the Academy of Certified Archivists. I have been actively involved with and held leadership positions in the Society of Georgia Archivists.

As a newer member of CPS, I have relied heavily on my colleagues' expertise, shared resources, and generous spirit. I am excited about the opportunity to become more involved with CPS and give back to the community of congressional archivists. In addition to my experience at a large research university and a government archives, I would bring enthusiasm and a fresh perspective to the steering committee. I work at an institution with only a few congressional collections. I would like to see CPS broaden its membership to reflect more fully the diversity of institutions that hold congressional collections and the archivists who work with those records. CPS has much to offer to archivists at smaller institutions and repositories that don't specialize in congressional collections, and I would love to see more outreach as well as work to find innovative ways to communicate about best practices to as wide of an audience as possible.

**Laura Litwer****Digital Initiatives Archivist****South Carolina Political Collections, University of South Carolina Libraries**

I have served as the Digital Initiatives Archivist at South Carolina Political Collections (SCPC) since 2015. I previously worked at Texas A&M University-Commerce as a processing archivist (processing a congressional collection) and as a temporary processing archivist and graduate assistant at SCPC. I earned a MLIS and a BA in History from the University of South Carolina. I served on the CPS Steering Committee from 2014-2016 and on its Electronic Records Committee from 2013-2016.

My experience working with electronic, paper, and audiovisual materials and engaging in a wide range of archival activities would enable me to contribute to the Steering Committee's efforts to address CPS members' needs. Having worked at both a robust, well-established congressional papers repository within a large research university and as the sole congressional papers archivist at a mid-size regional university, I can also represent the needs of practitioners operating in a variety of settings. Over the next three years, I would like to see CPS successfully fulfill its strategic plan for 2017-2020 and develop and implement a plan to support the section's progress beyond 2020.

## Vice Chair 1 Open Position

**Robert Lay**  
**Head of Arrangement and Description**  
**Richard B. Russell Library for Political Research and Studies**

I am the Head of Arrangement and Description at the Richard B. Russell Library at the University of Georgia. In this role, I oversee archival processing and digital projects and serves as the curator of the Georgia Disability History Archive. I hold a Master and Bachelor of Arts in History from Louisiana Tech University and has been a certified archivist since 2012.

I have an extensive background in congressional and political collections, having worked with the papers of Senator John Breaux at Louisiana State University, Senator Robert J. Dole at the Dole Institute of Politics, and the papers of Congressman Glenn English and Ambassador James R. Jones at the Carl Albert Center. At the Russell Library, I am responsible for overseeing the accessioning, arrangement, and description of both traditional and digital collections, as well as managing digital initiatives and serving as a point of contact for members of the Georgia congressional delegation who are seeking to place their papers at the Library. I am also part of a team planning the migration of all of UGA's special collections from Archivists' Toolkit to ArchivesSpace. In the role of Curator of the Georgia Disability History Archive, I collaborate with disability advocates and activists to plan the annual Georgia Disability History Symposium, highlighting the intersectionality of disability rights and other civil rights struggles and the need for greater documentation.

I have been an active member of both the Congressional Papers Section and the Association of Centers for the Study of Congress since 2011. During this time, I have had numerous opportunities to work with other congressional archivists on outreach and civic engagement projects, such as ACSC's partnership with the Kettering Foundation to produce *The Divided State of America*, a National Issues Forum discussion guide for promoting community discourse. My current position with the Russell Library affords me many opportunities to advocate for the mission of political and congressional archives with donors of all backgrounds, administrators, and potential users of our collections. CPS has a history of fostering both collaboration and advocacy in our field, and if elected to the office of Vice-Chair, I would try to support and increase that capacity.

I believe that the CPS has a greater role to play in encouraging diversity in our collections. Much of the work of Congress begins back in the districts with state and local officials, grassroots activists, political action groups, and other entities. Because these individuals and organizations are frequently more diverse than the Congress that represents them, their activities are a vital—and frequently missing—piece in our understanding of American politics and government. The current political environment is teeming with grassroots activity, particularly from women, people of color, and LGBTQ individuals—all groups who have been historically underrepresented in both government and archives. As Vice-Chair, I would look for ways to encouraging and celebrating these more diverse collecting efforts.

# Institutional Updates

## West Virginia University

*Danielle Emerling*

West Virginia University Libraries' West Virginia & Regional History Center has opened the congressional archives of former U.S. Congressman and West Virginia Governor Arch A. Moore Jr. and released digitized photographs that document Moore's decade in the House of Representatives.

A native of Moundsville, WV, Arch A. Moore Jr. served in the European theatre during World War II before enrolling at West Virginia University as a political science major in 1946. He later earned his law degree from WVU College of Law. In 1949, Moore married Shelley Riley, a fellow WVU student, and they had three children together, Arch A. (Kim) Moore III, Shelley Wellons, and Lucy St. Clair. Daughter Shelley served in the U.S. House of Representatives (2001-2014) and the U.S. Senate (2015-present).

In 1952, Arch Moore began his political career in the West Virginia House of Delegates, and in 1956 he was elected to the First District congressional seat. He went on to serve six terms in the U.S. House of Representatives (1957-1969) winning as a Republican in a predominantly Democratic state. He is the only person to serve three terms as Governor of West Virginia (1969-1977, 1985-1989). As Governor, Moore made significant contributions to the welfare and education systems and to road and infrastructure development. His tenure also engendered criticism and corruption charges, and beginning in 1990 Moore served three years in federal prison. Though he pled guilty, he later maintained his innocence.

Moore's congressional archives include more than 200 boxes of speeches, legislative materials, campaign and Republican Party files, West Virginia public works project documentation, correspondence with constituents, and more. The archives document his service on numerous committees and subcommittees, including Judiciary and Select Small Business. Throughout his tenure, Moore supported civil rights and public



Congressmen Arch Moore (right), Gerald Ford (center), and William McCulloch reviewing a House Resolution, circa 1965

works bills and was involved in several significant pieces of legislation, such as The Criminal Justice Act of 1963, The Civil Rights Acts of 1957 and 1964, and The Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965. He made numerous international trips, in particular visiting Vietnam during the war.

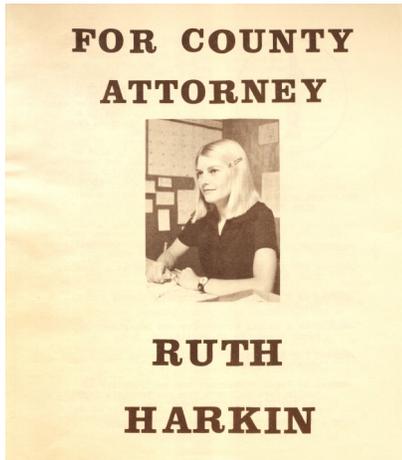
Center staff digitized more than 900 images from the archives and made them available online. The photographs capture Representative Moore speaking at press and campaign events, working with fellow committee members, traveling overseas, and meeting with constituents. He was photographed with Republican Party leaders, presidents and presidential candidates, military officers, and other members of Congress.

Moore's collection is one of the largest in the Centers' holdings. It contains documents from both his congressional and gubernatorial careers and continues to be processed. Individuals interested in using the collection should contact the Congressional and Political Papers Archivist.

# Institutional Updates

## ***Drake University***

*Hope Bibens*



The Ruth Harkin Papers are now open for research. In addition to being married to Senator Tom Harkin of Iowa for over 50 years, Ruth Harkin served as a county attorney, deputy general counsel for USDA, president and

chief executive officer of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, and senior vice president of United Technologies Corporation. Her papers span 1966-2018 and include personal papers, photographs, press clippings, and awards and memorabilia.

The Harkin Institute for Public Policy & Citizen Engagement broke ground on a new, two-story, 16,000-square-foot building on



the Drake University campus on May 17, 2019. In keeping with Senator Harkin's legacy as the sponsor of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the building seeks to achieve a new level of universal design for accessibility. The building will also include a gallery and extensive exhibit space for materials from the Harkin Collection.

## **Shepherd University**

*Jody Brumage*

The Byrd Center is excited to share the news that we have acquired the papers of West Virginia Congressmen Robert H. Mollohan and Alan B. Mollohan. Spanning nearly sixty years, these collections will join the papers of their former colleagues Senator Robert C. Byrd and Congressmen Harley O. Staggers, Sr. and Harley O. Staggers, Jr., which are already preserved in the center's archives.

Robert H. Mollohan [1909-1999] served in the United States House of Representatives from 1953 to 1957 and again from 1969 until his retirement in 1983. He was succeeded by his son, Alan B. Mollohan, who served West Virginia's 1st Congressional District for 28 years. Alan Mollohan served on the House Appropriations Committee, working alongside Senator Byrd to secure funding for enhancing education and healthcare institutions, infrastructure, scientific research, and other projects in West Virginia.

This summer, the Byrd Center's staff will be traveling across West Virginia in our fourth annual Teacher Institute. The institute provides day-long workshops where educators are introduced to innovative lesson plans and approaches for



# Institutional Updates

---

teaching civics, the U.S. Constitution, and congressional as well as West Virginia history. The institute is co-facilitated with Dr. Charles Flanagan of the Center for Legislative Archives (NARA) and supported by a grant from the West Virginia Humanities Council. Among the new workshops that will be introduced for the first time in this year's institute is a lesson plan on the Appalachian Regional Development Act which inspires students to consider, from a policy standpoint, how Congress has historically and continues to address the socioeconomic conditions of West Virginians and the entire Appalachian region. This summer, the institute will be held in Morgantown, Charleston, Beckley, and Shepherdstown.

## ***United States Senate Historical Office***

*Elisabeth Butler, Senate Deputy Archivist*

The Senate Historical Office archivists hired an Intern, Kaitlyn Lichtle, a MLIS student at Indiana University, for this summer to help with various projects including adding improved description to some old committee transfer sheets and processing a small collection of electronic records. She'll gain experience in processing, description, metadata, and knowledge of the Senate's archival practices.

## ***The Sixth Report of the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress: A View from the Senate*** — *Karen Paul, Senate Archivist*

The Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress published its Sixth Report to Congress on December 21, 2018. This report is prepared every six years to detail Congress's progress in preserving its records and to make recommendations for future improvements. It is available on the Center for Legislative Archives site.

At the time the Fifth Report was filed (December 2012), the Senate had 81,222 cubic feet of textual records and four terabytes of electronic records preserved at the Center for Legislative Archives. Today, the collection comprises 91,000 cubic feet and 55 terabytes. This impressive growth in electronic records holdings demonstrates the importance of preserving the Senate's electronic records and implementing digital curation best practices including records description, disposition, and preservation.

Two things stand out from the experience of the last six years:

The preservation of authentic electronic communications has become more important than ever in an era of ephemeral social media communications, competing news reports, and high profile data breaches. This means that we need to continue to create, file, and preserve the electronic records of the work we do as these will be the official and authentic records of the Senate's history as preserved in the National Archives (committee records) and in repositories of each member's choosing (senators' records).

The Sixth Report chronicles the growing use of Senate records in civics education. A fundamental level of civic literacy is essential for informed engagement in civic life and congressional archives are uniquely suited to fostering such understanding. Primary documents are the building blocks of publications, exhibits, oral histories, and enhanced websites. They provide the tools for scholars, teachers, and students of all ages to research, study, and understand the democratic process.

Remaining responsive, proactive, and relevant in an evolving recordkeeping and communications environment is the leitmotif of the Sixth Report. These values also characterize the Advisory Committee's recommendations going forward.