



Congressional Papers Section

NEWSLETTER

Society of American Archivists

Summer 2022

Message from the Chair

Carly Dearborn

I sit down to write this letter, energized and inspired having just left a meeting with the CPS Day 2022 planning committee. My participation in CPS has been one of the most rewarding parts of my job. CPS is filled with fun, engaging, and committed archivists and librarians. I learn so much from the collective wisdom of this community and know many of you feel the same. It is in this spirit that we approached planning for CPS Day 2022. With many of us still physically distanced and not attending in-person events in Boston, the planning committee wanted to foster community and connection through our programming.

At CPS Day this year you'll hear from archivists discussing digital records transfers with congressional offices; explore new uses for congressional collections through research, instruction, and outreach; and get the chance to ask that question you've been perhaps too nervous to ask in our "No Stupid Questions" session. We hope you will be able to join us virtually on July 19, 2pm EST. Please reach out if you have any questions or suggestions.

I encourage you all to think about what involvement in CPS means to you and how you can continue to stay connected—whether that be in an elected position, through our listserv, or by submitting an update to this newsletter. We welcome perspectives from students and early career archivists to those who have been working with congressional collections for years. You all are what make this community great!

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Institutional Update: Ted Stevens Foundation

Jolene Kennah

Alaska celebrated a landmark legislative milestone this past year: December 18, 2021, marked the 50th anniversary of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA). ANCSA was one of Senator Ted Stevens' first acts in Congress and was a huge legislative accomplishment for Alaska and the nation. It's the only Indigenous settlement of its kind in the States and provided for our state's unique handling of Indigenous land claims. Though it's not without is-

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As a result of the passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, monetary awards were made to Native regional corporations created by the Act on July 1, 1972, at the Anchorage Westward Hotel.

sues, it has provided numerous benefits over the years to both Alaska Natives and the state itself. At its core, it essentially created for-profit Native corporations to manage land and money for the various Native groups within Alaska rather than the reservation system instituted in the Lower 48 states, where the Federal Government holds land in trust for the Indigenous peoples.

In honor of this anniversary and to recognize the Senator's accomplishments in helping pass this legislation, the Ted Stevens Foundation (TSF) created a documentary describing the history that led up to the bill's passage. Titled *50 Years of Promise: the Beginning of ANCSA* it documents how the land claim issue came to be, how the Alaska Native people lobbied for their rights, and how Congress helped to finally legally solve the conflict. This 30-minute documentary contains archival footage from a number of Alaskan institutions including a 1971 film of Senator Stevens' speaking that TSF recently digitized from a 16 mm film print courtesy of a grant from the National Film Preservation Foundation.

We also helped to negotiate the donation of a portion of Senator Stevens' papers regarding ANCSA to a

local university. The "Senator Ted Stevens' papers. ANCSA papers" collection was officially donated to the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) /Alaska Pacific University Consortium Library's Archives and Special Collections in December. This collection is composed of papers and photographs created and collected by Senator Stevens' office during the build-up and passage of ANCSA.

We hope that the Senator's papers will continue to be used to guide and educate the public on this landmark legislation for years to come. The Foundation is also in ongoing discussions with UAA to donate the

remainder of the Stevens papers and to form an Alaska Leaders Archive, which would contain other congressional collections, such as the late Congressman Don Young's, as well as those from Alaska Native leaders and others from across the state who've helped shape our history.

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Alaska Native leaders and State of Alaska officials with Sen. Ted Stevens in the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs during a break in hearings on the Alaska Native Claims Act (ANCSA) on August 7 and 8, 1969. Left to right: Alaska Attorney General G. Kent Edwards; John Borbridge; Al Ketzler; Cecil Barnes; Asst. Attorney General Bob Hartig; Sen. Stevens; Willie Hensley; and Gov. Keith Miller (U.S. Senate/Stevens Foundation photo).

Stevens, cont.

Left to right: Gwen Higgins (UAA Archivist); Jolene Kennah (TSF Archivist); Karina Waller (TSF Executive Director); and UAA Chancellor Sean Parnell look over items from the "Ted Stevens papers. ANCSA papers" at UAA/APU's Archives and Special Collections in January 2022 (James Evans, UAA photo).

For more information on ANCSA, Senator Stevens, and to view our documentary please see: <https://tedstevensfoundation.org/programs/ancsaat50/>

The Finding Aid for "Senator Ted Stevens' papers. ANCSA papers" can be found here: <https://archives.consortiumlibrary.org/collections/specialcollections/hmc-1388/>

Institutional Update: Baylor University

Thomas DeShong

Poage Library staff and student assistants have continued working diligently to process our legacy collections to promote research on Congress and its members representing the central Texas region. The collections of former Representatives Bob Poage, O.C. Fisher, Jack Hightower, and Chet Edwards are all currently underway. Since September 2021, staff and students have processed approximately 528 document boxes.

On November 1, Poage Library partnered with the Baylor Institute for Oral History to co-host a virtual panel on redistricting in Texas. This discussion, entitled "Redrawing Texas: Who Chooses Whom?", fea-

tured former Representative Chet Edwards, the Bob Bullock Professor of Political Science Patrick Flavin, Baylor Law Professor and former Mayor of Waco Michael Morrison, and Stephanie Swanson, the Redistricting Issue Chair for the League of Women Voters of Texas. One can view a recording of this panel at the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/55bprjxk>.



Top row: Stephen Sloan, Stephanie Swanson, Michael Morrison; Bottom row: Chet Edwards, Patrick Flavin.

To increase the diversity of voices represented within its materials, Poage Library is always seeking to add new collections by reaching out to potential donors who have filled a variety of public service roles. In March, Poage staff attended a luncheon in support of Representative Colin Allred, a Baylor alum representing Texas's 32nd District. Poage is also seeking to acquire local collections such as the records from

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Graduate student Zach Loflin works on the finding aid for the Richard Jensen collection.

Baylor, cont.

the League of Women Voters of Waco and the personal papers of former McLennan County Commissioner Lester Gibson and Waco City Council member Alice Rodriguez. In late spring, Poage acquired the papers of John Leedom, a former Texas state representative.

For the past 10 years, former Representative Chet Edwards has served as the W. R. Poage Distinguished Chair of Public Service, speaking to hundreds of Baylor students regarding his career in politics and encouraging them to seek public service. Edwards will be leaving his position in the Baylor University Libraries this upcoming fiscal year, but is staying on campus to work with the Baylor Law School.



Left to right: Amanda Fisher, Rep. Colin Allred, Mary Goolsby, Jonathan Tomes, former Rep. Chet Edwards.

Looking ahead to next summer and fall, Poage hopes to resume much of its normal programming and outreach. In August, staff will partner with Baylor's School of Education to assist in the iEngage Summer Civics Institute. Later in the fall, we hope to once again reconnect with our friends group, The Standing Committee.

We reflect on this past year and recognize the resilience and hard work of our staff and students and look forward with optimism to the work that lies ahead as we strive towards Bob Poage's vision of a living and growing institution.

Institutional Update: Hawai'i Congressional Papers Collection

Dawn Sueoka

The Hawai'i Congressional Papers Collection at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Library was pleased to welcome the return of in-person researchers beginning in the fall 2021 semester. We have also been busy establishing a partnership to preserve and digitize moving images, working on public programs, and creating a fellowship program to support graduate student research in the congressional collections.

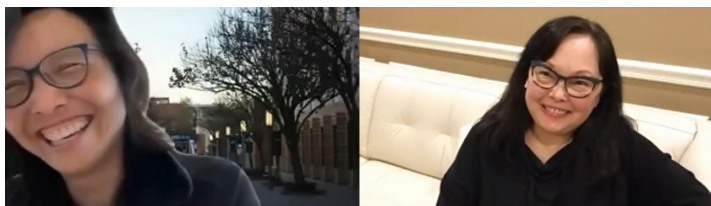
One of the highlights of the year was the establishment of a partnership with 'Ulu'ulu: the Henry Ku'ualoha Giugni Moving Image Archive of Hawai'i to preserve and digitize moving images from the congressional collections. The newly formed Hawai'i Congressional Media Collection documents significant issues facing Hawai'i over the last half-century, as well as issues and events of national and international importance.

On Friday, April 29, 2022, the Hawai'i Congressional Papers Collection, in partnership with UH Mānoa's Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, hosted a talk by Judy Tzu-Chun Wu and Gwendolyn Mink about their biography *Fierce and Fearless: Patsy Takemoto Mink, First Woman of Color in Congress*. *Fierce and Fearless* is the first biography of Mink, who represented Hawai'i's Second Congressional District in the U.S. House from 1965 to 1977, and from 1990 to 2002.

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Hawai‘i, cont.

The talk marked the launch of the virtual exhibit [*Dignity, Equality, and Opportunity for All: Patsy Mink and Title IX*](#). The exhibit, which will be viewa-



Judy Tzu-Chun Wu and Gwendolyn Mink during their talk on Fierce and Fearless: Patsy Takemoto Mink, First Woman of Color in Congress.

ble online through December 31, 2022, features materials from the Hawai‘i Congressional Papers Collection (the Patsy Mink Memorabilia Collection, the Senator Hiram L. Fong Papers, the Senator Daniel K. Inouye Papers, the Senator Spark M. Matsunaga Papers, and the Neil Abercrombie Papers), the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i Papers, the University Archives, and the Hawaiian Collection, as well as footage from the 2008 documentary *Patsy Mink: A Head of the Majority*. The talk and exhibit were part of the university’s semester-long celebration of Patsy Mink and the 50th anniversary of Title IX.



‘Ulu‘ulu head archivist Janel Quirante and digital media specialist Robbie Omura unload boxes of HCPC film and videotape.

HCPC is excited to announce the establishment of an endowment-funded summer fellowship to support UH Mānoa graduate students doing research in one or more of the library’s congressional collections. One \$5,000 award will be made annually, and award-ees will be invited to share their research via an informal talk, and to curate a small digital collection of primary source documents that can be explored by high school and undergraduate students. In addition to supporting our UHM graduate students, we hope that this fellowship will raise the visibility of these important collections, and encourage conversations about the subjects and events that they document.

Our first fellow is Meagan Harden, a PhD student in the Department of Geography and Environment. Her project, “Beyond Sea to Shining Sea: Reconfiguring American Empire in ‘Micronesia,’” will use the papers of Senator Daniel K. Inouye, Senator Hiram L. Fong, and Representative Neil Abercrombie to examine the discursive practices around U.S. militarism in the former Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

Practitioner’s Corner: Deeds and Donors

Remarks from the Association of Centers for the Study of Congress Nineteenth Annual Meeting
Thursday, May 12, 2022

Karen Paul

Thank you for this opportunity to share Senate advice to senators as they prepare to donate their records to a research repository.

A more accurate title for this session might be Practitioner’s Corner: Deeds, Deposits, and Donors, or why the Senate advises on Deposits as well as Deeds.

The answer is THE GIFT TAX ISSUE! An issue not widely understood! And perhaps, best forgotten!

The “Gift Tax issue” arose when Senator Bill Brad-

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Senate, cont.

ley was preparing to retire from the Senate in 1996 and was getting his ca. 800 feet of records ready for transfer to Princeton University.

Being a tax-savvy Senator, he raised a question about the federal gift tax law and how it might impact his donation. He further asked the IRS for an “informal opinion” with regard to gift tax applicability when access restrictions were placed on a senator’s collection.

As a result of that informal ruling, the Senate Legal Counsel has advised all departing senators of the potential for violation. The following language has been part of our guidance ever since. It is included in a section of our handbook, *Preserving Senate History: Closing a Senator’s Office*, section “The Internal Revenue Code and Disposition of Senators’ Papers” which we update each Congress.

Our current version states:

Senators who make a charitable gift of their papers should also consider the effect of federal gift tax laws. Gifts to charitable organizations are not normally subject to the federal gift tax that is imposed on the givers of noncharitable gifts worth more than \$16,000 in 2022 (this amount is adjusted for inflation in \$1,000 increments). However, **to qualify for exemption from the gift tax, donors must relinquish their entire interest in the donated property (IRC Section 2522(c)).** Gifts of partial interests of property do not receive the benefit of the charitable gift deduction and hence may be subject to gift taxation. Senators who make a charitable gift of their papers should consider carefully any provisions in the deed of gift restricting public access to materials within the donated collection to ensure that those provisions run no risk of being treated as creating a retained interest in the property that could result in the disallowance of the charitable gift tax deduction.

Senators should consult with their tax advisers about this issue.

To accommodate the need to restrict access to certain parts of a collection, the senator should consider using a “deposit agreement” rather than a deed of gift to deposit those restricted portions with the institution, and arranging for their title to pass to the repository upon the member’s death, or at the time the restrictions can be lifted, whichever is sooner.

The adverse effects of this informal ruling were noticed immediately as member donations faltered. The issue of restrictions being viewed as a retained interest was brought to the attention of the Senate Finance Committee.

In response, Senator Moynihan introduced S. 217 in January 1999, A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the treatment of charitable transfers of collections of personal papers with a separate right to control access. This was to encourage donations of personal papers.

The bill stumbled in committee due to objections that it looked like a special deal for Senators. Further, tax experts saw it as a Pandora’s Box, i.e., a vehicle that would open the door for all others wanting to alter the gift tax, which was written the way it is to prevent abuses.

The Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress discussed the gift tax issue in 2006 and recommended further study. Subsequent discussions among Joint Committee on Taxation and Finance Committee experts about possible remedies ensued.

These ended in 2007 without agreement on a way forward. The issue was entwined with various estate tax provisions and the consensus was that there was “no easy solution.” At this point, it was suggested that the archival community itself should consider publicizing the problem and push for a legislative remedy. Discussion followed within the Congressional Papers Roundtable community.

Needless to say, a *groundswell* demanding congressional action never materialized. I suspect largely because no one had ever heard of an instance when a donor was penalized by having to pay a gift tax because there were access restrictions placed on the gift.

Thus, our advice to deed those portions of a collection that can be opened and deposit those portions that need to be restricted has remained.

Interestingly enough, it was this impasse that inspired the drafting of S. Res. “Preservation of Senators’ Papers” on July 16, 2007. When this draft was shared with the House, the House *ran with it*, and passed H. Con. Res. 307, 110th Congress, which was then passed by the Senate on June 20, 2008. It urges members **to make every effort to preserve** their collections. (Yes, Senate Historian Dick Baker and I did a Happy Dance.) And it has, by and large, been effective in convincing members to preserve their collections while helping to dampen (but not totally eliminate) the chilling effects that the gift tax issue created.

At the time H. Con. Res. 307 was passed, Ray Smock, founding member of ACSC and its first president wrote a congratulatory note and commented that this was half the battle well won, getting Congress to declare that the records of members should be preserved. The other half would be dedicated funding.

On March 15, 2022, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 became law and our office began to administer expanded Preservation Partnership Grants available to designated archival repositories of sitting Senators and awarded according to seniority. While this is not a permanent funding feature, we are hoping that, if they are successful, there *will be an outpouring of interest* from the congressional archival community and that they be continued in future fiscal years.

If there is a moral to this story, it might be that if at first you don’t succeed, try something else—or if the stick doesn’t work, try the carrot?

Oh, and the fate of the Senator Bradley collection: In March 2018, Princeton University Library announced the donation of the collection to the library. The press release stated that the University had stored the 1,000 boxes of Bill Bradley Papers since 1997 when Bradley stepped down from political office and that the collection will be made open for research use on Dec. 20, 2032. So this collection remained on deposit for a long time and when donated, remained restricted!

What could this mean for the life of the gift tax issue? Only time will tell!

Electronic Records Committee Update

Mary Goolsby

The ERC has been updating and organizing the content on its website (<https://cprerc.wordpress.com/>). Be sure to check out the many resources available, including blogs, case studies, learning modules, and much more.

The ERC will participate in CPS Day (July 19, 2022) by presenting a “Working with Allies” session to help us all talk to important allies in acquisition of electronic congressional papers. Topics include: working with former staffers to recover social media account information, tips on the conversations needed with congressional staff about technical needs and what kinds of electronic records we want, and how to get buy-in from your library for acquiring these records.

U.S. House of Representatives, Office of Art and Archives Update on Activities, May 2022

Heather Bourk

In addition to the core work of supporting committees and Members by managing accessions of new records and loans of previously archived records, providing records management guidance, and responding to records-related questions, House Archives staff successfully planned and completed several additional projects.

One important component of our outreach efforts to committees and Members is providing manuals and guides detailing records management guidance and archiving procedures. Archives staff spent the beginning of 2021 improving the *Records Management Manual for Committees* with a focus on streamlining the content, removing jargon, introducing infographics to make the guidance more user friendly, and overhauling the design. The manual was published in August 2021.

Staff also reworked existing quick guides to highlight topics frequently asked about by committees. The topics covered include archiving electronic records and social media, preparing records for transfer, the differences between published and unpublished records, and end-of-Congress archiving. The guides were available for use in January 2022. A remaining quick guide focused on archiving committee email is slated for completion later this summer.

The records management manual provided to Members was similarly updated and redesigned with a focus on providing simplified guidance and the use of infographics to make the content easier to understand. The updated manual was completed early this year and has been provided to the more than 60 Members who have announced their departure from the House. It is also included on the House’s Transition website for the 117th Congress and used as a resource in monthly departing Member briefings organized by the House Chief Administrative Officer. Four companion quick guides that cover archiving electronic records, email, and social media, along with a general how-to archive Member papers quick guide are set to be completed this summer.

Staff in the Archives Department have spent the past several months preparing for and beginning the transfer of records from the 114th and 115th Congresses, as well as newly accessioned records from earlier Congresses and records on loan from the Center for Legislative Archives. House Archives staff, in collaboration with staff from the Center, are in the process of transferring more than 4,500 boxes, the equivalent of almost 3.4 million pages of records. The most recent accessions are being transferred into the storage designated for congressional records at the Government Publishing Office and mark the House's first transfers into this new space. The transfers will be completed this summer.

Staff continue to research and draft content for the [History, Art, and Archives website](#). In November 2021, 24 new House record descriptions were added to the [Records Search database](#). Topics covered include the United States postal service, presidential addresses, the role of women in war, and statehood. Transcriptions for all handwritten documents currently in Records Search were completed and added to the site in May and will be added to any handwritten documents going forward.

Archives staff met in fall 2021 to discuss the records-related content we contribute to the History, Art, and Archives website, focusing our attention on mission, audience, and goals, and drafted a web strategy plan to frame the content we create moving forward. The most significant change involves a shift in our work on the Records Search database. The plan is to shorten the document descriptions to allow us to add almost three times the number of documents we research, draft, and post each year. First drafts of 60 document descriptions have been researched and written by Archives staff. The additions are scheduled to go live on the website by the end of the year.

Archives staff also continue to contribute record-related content to the [Education portion](#) of the website. A [primary source set](#) featuring House records and photographs related to Prohibition was added to the site in March. In addition to House records, the set includes a brief introductory essay, a primary source analysis worksheet, and questions for discussion. Work also continues on a companion video documenting Prohibition through the use of House records with completion expected by the end of the year.

Also on the education front, staff participated in judging for National History Day at the national competition level in 2021. Staff members have also collaborated with the Historian's Office to compile [web resources](#) in support of this year's National History Day theme of Debate and Diplomacy. The webpages pull together a variety of existing content—House records and objects, oral histories, and Historical Highlights—under suggested topics students might consider for their projects.

Staff continue to contribute content to the [House History Twitter feed](#) through tweets highlighting House records and participation in the Archives Hashtag Party hosted by the National Archives. We've also added records-focused tweets geared toward educators and recently tweeted a series of Twitter polls asking for input from teachers about what primary source resources they would find most useful.

Our office continues to support the work of the House Historian's Office through research into primary sources for use in their projects. Staff worked closely with the Center for Legislative Archives on a request for scans of election credentials of African-American House Members. We also continue to update research collection information on the Member profiles found on the [online Biographical Directory of Congress](#) with a current focus on African-American Members.

Technical Supplement to *Managing Congressional Collections* Update

Carly Dearborn

In late 2020, CPS members identified a critical need to update Cynthia Pease Miller's *Managing Congressional Collections* to include guidance on the collection, preservation, and management of born-digital congressional collections. A working group, composed of Sheridan Sayles, Kate Gregory, Danielle Emerling, Alison White, Carly Dearborn, Robert Lay, and Mary Goolsby, has been working to identify necessary content for the supplement, in large part thanks to the feedback and suggestions from the larger CPS community.

The working group quickly realized a publication of the quality we were hoping for would not be possible without additional financial and editorial support from SAA and their Publications team. Luckily, our friends and colleagues at the Association of Centers for the Study of Congress saw our vision and agreed to partner with us on a book proposal to the SAA Publications Board. We submitted a proposal for *Managing Digital Congressional Collections: A Technical Supplement to Managing Congressional Collections* in early May and now await the decision of the Publications Board. If you have any questions about the project, please feel free to reach out to co-editors Robert Lay, Carly Dearborn, and Hope Bibens (representing ACSC).

Congressional Papers Section Nominations

Vice-Chair

Sheridan Sayles

Technical Services Archivist, Seton Hall University



Sheridan Sayles is currently serving as the Technical Services Archivist at Seton Hall University. She has previously worked as Assistant Archivist at Trinity Church on Wall Street and Archivist for the Senator Frank R. Lautenberg

Papers at Rutgers University. Her primary duties center around processing and processing management and has seven years of experience in working with both Congressional and political papers. She is an active member of the Society of American Archivists

as well as the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference, holding leadership positions in both groups.

Sheridan has served on the Congressional Papers Section Steering Committee for two years and has been active with the Electronic Records Committee of CPS since 2017. Through this involvement, she has seen the intersection of congressional and digital

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CPS Day: Save the Date!

When: Tuesday July 19, 2022 at 2-3:30pm EST
Where: Zoom! Registration details coming soon!

Nominations, cont.

records and the hiccups that archivists face in accessioning, collecting, and processing these materials. Her focus, if elected, would be in creating resources for archivists working directly with these records.

Steering Committee

Mandy Bernard Lignelli

Archivist, History Associates Incorporated



I earned my MSLIS from The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., where, as a recipient of a Graduate Library Preprofessional scholarship, I spent two years working in the University's Special Collections while taking classes. For my first project, I processed the personal papers of former U.S. Am-

bassador to the Holy See Mary Ann Glendon.

In my current role as an archivist at History Associates Incorporated (HAI)—headquartered in the D.C. suburb of Rockville, Maryland—processing and appraising congressional papers is one of my primary responsibilities. When I started at HAI last summer, I joined a team of archivists tasked with processing the papers of a former U.S. Senator over the period of about eighteen months. To date I have processed two sub-series and am currently in the midst of applying a unique standard for de-selection to the largest sub-series—making up more than half of the entire collection. Through this experience and some of the other short-term projects I have been assigned to, I have become acquainted with the challenges that come with congressional papers—from asserting control over their unwieldy size to navigating the politics of their management and disposition.

As an early career archivist living and working in the capital area, I embrace my nomination to the Steering Committee of the Congressional Papers Section as an

opportunity to gain expertise in the niche from which I expect many projects in my future will emanate. For my part, I would like to further archivists' study of the actual and potential uses of congressional papers—not merely to justify the effort and expense of processing and maintaining them, but to better understand their research value. In "New Perspectives on Congressional Collections" (2018), for instance, Maurita Baldock and J. Wendel Cox point to the decline in the use of congressional papers in recent decades as top-down historical research has fallen "out of scholarly favor." Interestingly, though, Baldock and Cox identify those interested in American Indian history as a promising user group for congressional papers, given "the role of Congress in the unique nation-to-nation relationship with tribes." As a member of the Steering Committee, I would encourage the Section to leverage its insights about congressional papers to further promote their use and enhance their accessibility.

Kate Gregory

Assistant Professor/Political Papers Archivist, Mississippi State University Libraries



I am currently a member of the steering committee and would like to continue my service for another term, primarily because I hope another term will afford me the opportunity at some point to work with the section in person and meet some of you all. I joined the steering committee in May 2020 and have yet to attend SAA in person. I am so hopeful for the chance to meet and connect with more of you.

At MSU, I am the archivist for the Senator John C. Stennis Papers and the G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery Papers, which total about 6,500 cubic feet. In addi-

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Nominations, cont.

tion, I work with the papers of Congressman Mike Espy, Congressman Chip Pickering, Senator Marsha Blackburn, and Congressman Gregg Harper, among several other congressional collections and congressional staffers' papers. In my first term on the Steering Committee, I have helped plan CPS Day programming and worked with the task force on the supplement to Managing Congressional Collections. I am also a member of the Electronic Records Committee. In a second term on the Steering Committee, I would like to continue my involvement with the supplement project and make progress on that, help grow involvement in CPS, plan engaging programming for the group, and discuss DEI ideas, initiatives, and issues surrounding the work that we do.

I hope you will consider allowing me to continue my service to this section. I appreciate you all giving me a chance to serve. Thank you!

Katie Jakovich

Archivist, History Associates Incorporated



I earned my MSIS, with a focus on Archiving and Preservation, from the University of Texas at Austin and my BA in History from Rhodes College. I worked in libraries and archives for the entirety of my time both at Rhodes and UT

Austin, gaining experience with photographic collections and outreach, in particular.

Since May 2021, I have been part of a team processing a Senate collection at History Associates Incorporated (HAI). I recently worked on the closeout of another Senator's office as well, helping prepare and inventory records for shipment to a repository. My work with these records has increased my existing interest in congressional papers and my desire to contribute to the field through participation in the SAA Congressional Papers Section.

Though I am somewhat new to working with congressional papers, I have learned invaluable lessons about the importance of collaboration and communication when working on a large collection, especially as part of a growing team. Additionally, I have witnessed and experienced the challenges of reckoning with external parties, who frequently have their own goals and expectations. Though not unique to a professional services firm like HAI, our archivists occasionally face the dilemma of balancing our professional responsibilities and the expectations of our clients.

As a member of the Steering Committee, I believe I can bring a new professional's insights on congressional papers and ideas on outreach and engagement within the archival community. Due to the discretion archivists must exercise in our work on such collections, it is especially critical that we communicate and connect amongst ourselves so that we may continue to build a community of learning, support, and symbiosis.

Sara Stefani

Modern Political Papers Archivist, Indiana University Bloomington



I have been working with Congressional Papers for about four years, since June 2018. During that time, I have been an Archivist with the Modern Political Papers collection of the Indiana University Bloomington Libraries. My primary

responsibility is for the Richard G. Lugar Senatorial Papers, but I am also responsible for the Mike Pence Congressional Papers and the Dan Burton Congressional Papers. More recently, I assisted with bringing the Susan W. Brooks Congressional Papers to our repository.

I received my Master's in Library Science degree with a specialization in Archives and Records Man-

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Nominations, cont.

agement from Indiana University in May 2018. It was just a month later that I started my position with the IU Libraries. Although previously I had had experience working for a rare books and special collections library and also with our University Archives and other archival collections, when I first started working with congressional papers, I quickly realized that these collections can be very different from other archival collections. Their size, the different variety of materials and formats they contain, and what I think of as the unique space they occupy between personal and institutional papers, made them a different beast than the other collections I had worked with. My educational background was not in Political Science, but in Russian literature, so I had to learn a lot about politics and political papers very quickly!

Luckily, I had some very good colleagues who recommended some excellent resources for me. I also immediately subscribed to SAA's Congressional Papers Section, and also connected with the Association of Centers for the Study of Congress. I still remember what it was like when I first started working with these collections, and I still come across new questions every day. I think that SAA's Congressional Papers Section has an important role to play as a resource for new archivists in this field, as well as seasoned archivists, and also archivists who don't consider themselves to be specialists, but who have received a congressional collection. I think that there are a lot of features that can benefit the membership of CPS and foster a sense of community: coffee chats, blog posts from members, invited talks, and lists of resources and bibliographies of materials. I'd like to see a series of workshops or mini-conferences take place during the year, and I'd like to create a platform that different institutions can use to advocate for congressional collections.

Message from the Editors

It's not too early to start thinking about the next issue of our newsletter!

To assist with your--and our!--planning, we have implemented a regular annual production schedule:

- **Late May:** Summer issue submission deadline
- **June:** Summer issue published
- **Mid-November:** Winter issue submission deadline
- **December:** Winter issue published

For our winter 2022-2023 issue we invite content in the following categories:

- **Institutional Updates:** Project updates, case studies, significant acquisitions, work in progress, etc. 500 to 1,000 words.
- **Brief Announcements:** Staffing changes, grants awarded, upcoming event/opportunity announcements, new acquisitions, newly processed collections, etc. 250 words or less.
- **Program/Event/Committee Reports, Recaps, and Updates:** 500 words or less.

Kate Hujda
Minnesota Historical Society

Dawn Sueoka
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa