

CPS Election Candidates

Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect

Hope Grebner Bibens

Political Papers Archivist and Assistant Professor of
Librarianship
Drake University
BA in History and 19th 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.

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).

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.