



Congressional Papers Roundtable

NEWSLETTER

Society of American Archivists

Fall/Winter 2015

CPR at SAA 2015

A Message from the Chair:

By Marc Levitt

Greetings friends! For this inaugural message, I wanted to thank everyone again for the vote of confidence as we head into 2016. I also want to thank Rob Spindler for his advice and support over the last year, and for the forthcoming questions I'm sure to have. Being Co-Chair of the Electronic Records Committee (ERC) was a great experience, and I remain truly impressed by the dedication and enthusiasm the members have consistently shown since their inception.

CPR continues to evaluate itself this year, and the task force set to review our by-laws is in full swing. Part of their charge is to review the idea to include state legislatures (and their affiliated groups) and the ERC membership clause. This latter piece came up at the last Steering Committee meeting, and we decided to have a special appointment session to rotate the membership and bring us in line with the current by-laws. So congrat-

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By Rob Spindler

On August 19, approximately 60 Congressional Papers Roundtable members and guests gathered at the Kelvin Smith Library at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, for the daylong annual pre-conference meeting. The day was divided into four topical areas: state legislative papers, digitizing obsolete video materials, collaborative digital exhibits, and fundraising strategies.

Brian Keough (SUNY, Albany) led the session "State Legislative Papers and Advocacy Organizations" with guests Nancy Lenoil (California State Archives) and Randy Gue (Emory), by providing the historical backdrop for current policies and practices surrounding state legislator papers. Laws governing ownership of these papers vary from state to state, but typically fall into three categories: public record by law, private record by law, or private record by custom (no law). The speakers encouraged each archive to know their state laws and spend the time necessary to educate legislative staff on options for preserving these valuable historic resources.

Marc Levitt (National Naval Aviation Museum) and his panelist—Kim Anderson (State Archives of North Carolina), Maureen Harlow (PBS), John Walko (Scenesavers) and Alan Renga (San Diego Air & Space Museum) presented specifics about their current initiatives to assist

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(From the Chair, continued from page 1)

ulations to Elisabeth Butler, Jim Havron, and Greg Wideman who will be joining the ERC in January of 2016!

ERC has also completed most of their strategic goals set out in 2012, which led us to review the CPR's larger strategic plan created in the same year. We're going to need to begin revisiting what the vision for the next 5 years is going to be, and will be looking for volunteers interested in working through this project.

It's never too early to begin thinking about our Pre-Conference meeting, and there's some news on that front as well. We have already secured a venue at Georgia State which is less than a mile from the 2016 SAA Conference site in Atlanta. The sessions for the meeting are gradually getting fleshing out, and there is still time to put forth a suggestion for an issue facing the CPR that you feel ought to be addressed. So far, we are looking at Web Archiving (coordinated by the ERC) and Outreach Efforts by congressional repositories. Another panel on how repositories work with academic units is also in its nascent stages.

As you've probably sensed by now, the theme running through this message is a continued call for action and volunteers. Our group is as strong as the participation of our members, and I urge you to continue to be involved and passionate about those issues in which you are invested.

Enjoy the holiday season and keep up the good work of managing the documentary history of our nation's legislative collections!



(CPR at SAA 2015, continued from page 1)

members in answering the complex questions surrounding digitizing obsolete video material. Each presentation provided answers to some of these questions based on the experiences of the institution.

In the session, "Rethinking Congressional History on the Web through Collaborative Digital Exhibits," Danielle Emerling (West Virginia University) and Hope Grebner (Drake) discussed the ACSC online exhibition entitled [The Great Society Congress](#) that focuses on the achievements of the 89th Congress. They explained how the project was conceived and developed, and highlighted the benefits of a multi-institutional, collaborative digital project.

In the fundraising session, "Connecting People, Sustaining Programs: Fundraising Strategies for Congressional Collections," Audrey Coleman (Dole Institute) and the other panelists—Jay Wyatt (Byrd Center), and Melissa Hubbard and Mark Whipper (Case Western Reserve), shared their experiences and strategies for friend and fund raising in support of collection development and maintenance and bringing in larger donations for capital campaigns. After a break, members participated in break-out groups, shared their development stories and tips and imagined actions they might take at their home institutions.



Overall this was a very successful program that challenged congressional archivists to think about external opportunities for collaboration and support that enable the preservation of useful congressional and state legislators' materials. The Roundtable is very grateful to our kind hosts at the Case Western Reserve University who made our event enjoyable, comfortable and productive.

Congressional Papers Roundtable Business Meeting
August 21, 2015, 4:30pm – 6pm
Room 21, Cleveland Convention Center

► **Welcome, Report of the Chair**

Rob Spindler

45 people attended CPR Day on Wednesday

Steering Committee met after and granted a two-year extension to the Diversity Taskforce and established a Bylaws Revision Taskforce

► **Group/Liaison Reports**

Nominations and Elections Committee

Betsy Pittman

Thank you to the nominees who ran and people who bowed out this year

If anyone wants to run next year, please see Rob

Elections Results:

Danielle Emerling is Chair-Elect

Tammi Kim and Katie Delasenserie are new Steering Committee members

Electronic Records Committee

Jan Zastrow

(see page 5-6)

Diversity Taskforce

Tammi Kim

Members:

Janet Bunde, Co-chair

Tammi Kim, Co-chair

2014-2015 Activities

Over the past year, the Diversity Task Force has mainly worked on assessing the diversity of CPR's membership. DTF worked with Betsy Pittman to create suggested improvements to the SAA-CPR microsite. The goal of a microsite redesign is to make the site more navigable and user-friendly for all members of SAA.

DTF also proposed a revision of the "Statement of Purpose" on the microsite – this proposed revision will be taken into consideration by the Bylaws Revision Task Force.

2015-2016 Activities

CPR Steering Committee approved an extension to DTF's charge through the end of 2017 and are recruiting volunteers to help with projects for the upcoming year. The DTF will focus on two specific projects:

- Design and distribute a survey (Fall 2015) to collect data on users of congressional collections. The results from this survey will be compiled into a report and made available on the CPR microsite.
- Collect case studies and sample policies on outreach and instruction from CPR members that will be disseminated into a report and made available on the CPR microsite.

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Center for Legislative Archives

(see pages 6-8)

Matt Fulgham

U.S. Senate

(see pages 8-9)

Alison White

U.S. House of Representatives

(see pages 10-11)

Robin Reeder

Association of Centers for the Study of Congress

(see pages 11-13)

Betsy Pittman

► **Presentation: *Preserving a Montana Senator's Image: The Lee Metcalf Photograph and Film Collection Project* Privacy by Matthew M. Peek, State Archives of North Carolina**

(see pages 13-15)

► **Discussion on SAA Draft Issue Statements on NARA Authority and Privacy**

- A form will be added to the CPR website for members to give further feedback through September 7, 2015 (Labor Day). This will be shared through the CPR list-serv.
- Question: Why is the committee tying things together now instead of keeping issue of public/private status of papers separate? Would like to hear from committee.
What is CPR's strategy if SAA approves?
Comment: If this goes through would our older collections be affected? Would there be stipulations on providing access to processing backlogs/would it be retroactive?
- The Center for Legislative Archives is out of space, even with 40 sites. NARA will be responding. Adding what are currently labeled private papers would be a huge burden and require more space, staff, resources, etc. It would be easier if this were tied to funding.
- "If archivists ruled the world, what would we want?" The Issue Briefs are intended to be aspirational. If SAA got to decide, would we consider them public records? What represents the public's best interest?
Comment: They seem to have gotten too prescriptive instead of aspirational with the statement on making congressional papers public.
Comment: We collect papers to make them available for researchers as soon and thoroughly as possible. If Congress agrees with making their papers public, they may/will be treated the same as committee records and would be closed for the terms of 20 and 30 years, based on chamber. A generation could miss out on access to these papers, which are often donated to us with far shorter restriction periods.
- If SAA is taking an advocacy role, they should stick with 1-3 things they really want to achieve and that are actually achievable. Federalizing Congressional records is not all that feasible. Producing a laundry list of 27 items to accomplish will divide, not focus our efforts.
- Sense of CPR stance from Rob Spindler: CPR members like the parts of the Issue Brief that strengthen NARA authority, but are not behind the part making congressional papers public. Agreement that it would be nice to give NARA some teeth.

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► **CPR By-Laws Revision Taskforce Charge Discussion**

Not discussed due to meeting running late.

► **Introduction of Incoming CPR Chair Marc Levitt**

SAA will be in Atlanta next year. Anyone familiar with the city can get in touch with him for help in picking somewhere to have CPR Day. Also be thinking of general SAA sessions that CPR members could propose.

► **Adjourn**

(Meeting Minutes—Reports, continued from page 4)

Electronic Records Committee Report by Jan Zastrow

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We were fortunate to have a seasoned crew on the committee this year, which included Katie Delacenserie, Danielle Emerling, Adriane Hanson, Brandon Hirsch, Anu Kasarabada, Laura Litwer, and Marc Levitt and myself as co-chairs. Thank you, Team ERC!

Some of us will be rolling off due to term limits so we're working on a secession plan now—updates coming soon. Meanwhile, we're delighted that Danielle will be our new co-chair, and it's been great working with Marc, too. We know he'll be a wonderful asset to CPR as Roundtable Chair. Congratulations, Marc!

YEAR IN REVIEW

We had a total of seven conference call meetings from September 2014 through July 2015, which resulted in some truly groundbreaking work. In 2014-2015 we were able to accomplish all of our planned goals and more:

We reached out to other SAA and related professional organizations

As per the *2012 CPR Strategic Plan*, this was the year for us to “coordinate information-sharing on the subject of electronic records with professional groups sharing similar interests, and advocate for action on matters of particular interest to CPR.”

Specifically, we developed a working relationship with the SAA Electronic Records Section and the Web Archiving Roundtable. We pursued an alliance with Archive-It and the University of North Texas to identify which congressional websites were being crawled. We solicited input from the Library of Congress Web Archiving Team to begin exploring what role CPR and our committee might play in collaborative web archiving projects. We reached out to the Congressional Management Foundation, offering resources for managing electronic records in congressional offices; and also to the Association of Moving Image Archivists (AMIA), which resulted in the CPR Day panel on “Digitizing Obsolete Video Materials.”

We helped plan conference sessions

In addition to suggesting the video session on Wednesday, we helped Laura—as a member of the Program Committee—put together a panel for ACSC this past May. As it so happened, the panel was merged with one scheduled during lunch, and it turned into an outstanding session called, “Jump In! Electronic Congressional Records Edition” on archiving constituent correspondence, email, and social media.

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We conducted a second Digital Archives Survey

Danielle, Adriane, and Laura conducted a second survey—following on from last year’s general Electronic Records Survey—this time focusing explicitly on donations of electronic records to congressional repositories. It was announced on the CPR and ACSC listservs between June 2 and July 3, and 12 responses were received. The results of the survey will be posted on the ERC website soon—and we hope you’ll all participate in the next one too!

We posted new resources on the ERC web page

There are now four new Case Studies on the website: one by Danielle on “Establishing Electronic Records Management at the University of Delaware”; another by Adriane on the “Donations of Digital Records from Congressional Offices”; a third case study Q&A conducted by Anu with Robert Christman of the Library of Virginia on web archiving. And the very latest, on “Working with CSS Data in Congressional Collections” by the University of Montana’s Natalie Bond, has just been posted.

We also added sample policy documents; accessioning and processing manuals; and a PowerPoint presentation on constituent services systems, respectively shared by the University of Georgia, the University of Montana, and the US Senate Historical Office. We’ve worked with the CPR Steering Committee to streamline this process and will continue adding resources from Roundtable members on an ongoing basis. Please do consider sharing yours.

We’re designing a new website

The committee requested and got permission to create a WordPress site in order to make timely updates, share sample documents, post new resources, develop a blog and release more case studies. The new site will link back to the SAA CPR website; look for it in the coming weeks!

Finally, I want to thank every member of this committee for their always-energetic engagement, innovative ideas and pioneering contributions. This year will be hard to top, but I’m betting 2015-‘16 will be even *better!*

Center for Legislative Archives Report by Matt Fulgham

Background on the CLA

The CLA has 20 full-time and 1 part-time employees. It supports the current business of Congress by returning records to committees and by providing records assistance to House and Senate committees, congressional administrators, and the congressional community generally. The CLA also provides archival services and programs to support researchers and creates educational materials to advance public understanding of the history of Congress and representative government in America.

Assistance to the House and Senate

- 113 Loans of 514 boxes/643,000 pages
- 703 Accessions of 2,226 cubic feet/5.6 million pages
- Received an additional 26.6 terabytes of electronic records, which included the web harvest of the 113th Congress (15.4 TB)
- Looking into additional storage for electronic records: by 2019 we may hold as much as 570 TB.
- At this time we are actively pursuing a relocation of all processing operations downtown while looking for additional storage.

(CLA Report, continued from page 6)

Assistance to the House and Senate, continued

- Working with legacy media from the House and Senate: nearly 1,000 3.5” floppy disks and over 100 5.25” floppy disks. These numbers continue to grow as staff works through previous accessions.
- The 15.4TB of data from the 113th Congress web harvest was created from 3,805 seeds and 4,501 SURTs
- – 2,200 of which are related to social media sites.
- On-going challenges include legacy media and the Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission (FCIC) records
- which will be available for request in February 2016

Capitol Visitor Center

- Center staff continue to serve the CVC exhibit-content team, selecting original documents for display and
- reviewing exhibit themes and text.
- De-installed Rotation 11, “Congress and the War of 1812 – 200th Anniversary Commemoration (part 2)” in March 2015
- Installed Rotation 12, “Congress Investigates (part 1)” which will be up until September

Research Services

- 862 researcher inquiries, which shows a 15% increase from last year and over 1,900 items pulled, a 45% increase from last year. This is probably due to an increase in description.
- Majority of inquiries are related to modern Congresses, specifically the 76th – 95th Congresses.
- Researchers are interested in a broad variety of subjects: national security (41% of inquiries), law and government (36% of inquiries), and domestic policy (23% of inquiries)
- Have had several researcher talks in the past year:
 - David Kieran – October 23, 2014
 - Jessica L. Adler – November 6, 2014
 - Timothy Verhoeven – November 20, 2014
 - Ajay K. Mehrotra – December 4, 2014
 - Rebecca Edwards – January 15, 2015
 - Mark A. Bradley – February 12, 2015
 - Thomas Terry – March 12, 2015
- Under Legislative Enhanced Archival Description (LEAD), the Center has created enhanced description for 82 of the 98 Congresses for which both House and Senate records are fully or partially open (1789-1984). In total, 57,691 cubic feet of records, comprised of nearly 15,468 description records, have been described.
- In December 2014, the National Archives Catalog (<https://catalog.nara.gov>) was launched. It includes a slider bar for limited searches by begin and end Congress dates. The data for these new fields is currently being populated and should be completed this summer.

Congressional Outreach Services

- In September 2014 we launched our first mobile app for tablets, *Congress Creates the Bill of Rights*. It was originally just for iPads, but this spring we released an Android version.
- We continue to maintain active Twitter and Tumblr accounts – *Congress in the Archives*. Tumblr posts have attracted over 110,000 followers.

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- Our staff also contributes to *Education Updates* blog, *Prologue: Pieces of History* blog, the National Archives Education Facebook page, Flickr, Pinterest, and DocsTeach
- The Center is commemorating the 225th anniversary of the First Federal Congress (1789-1791). Since March 2014, we have used digital outreach as our primary tool for commemorating the anniversary. We are sharing documents and stories that highlight the establishment of the new government under the Constitution in a series of post that will continue through March 2016 on Tumblr, Twitter, *Education Updates* blog, and *Prologue: Pieces of History* blog. We also have featured three original First Congress documents in the Rotunda gallery.
- New lesson plans are available online about the Bill of Rights and Article I of the Constitution
- Outreach staff is continuing work on a museum exhibit called *Amending America* which will explore some of the 11,000 ways that Americans have attempted to amend the Constitution and the 27 times we have agreed to change it. Working currently on gallery layout and the script will be completed by the end of the summer. *Amending America* will open in March 2016.
- Presented teacher workshops in Florida, Texas, and Washington, D.C.

Conclusion

I will be leaving the CLA in 6-8 weeks to move to Ashville, North Carolina.

U.S. Senate Report by Alison White

Senators' Offices Archiving Activities

The Senate had 18 offices close at the end of the 113th Congress and 14 senators selected archival repositories. Four are holding their records in personal custody. Two of the four are planning to donate and two short term placeholders (Chiesa, NJ and Cowan, MA) are retaining what records they have in personal custody. A good indication of a member's desire to preserve their records is illustrated by the decisions of members who were defeated. Four of the five immediately chose to preserve their collections in a repository, and the fifth is in the process of getting the collection ready for donation.

- Our closing offices had a lot of questions about access, legal instruments, the process of donating, and the security of electronic records once they are sent to a repository. To help them converse with repositories about their digital records, we provided a list of discussion points.
- We are working with the five offices that we know will be closing at the end of this Congress.
- We enhanced outreach to the new member offices by delivering a pamphlet and quick cards during Orientation Week in December. More in-depth information was conveyed in January via *Opening an Office, 114th Congress Handbook*, a joint publication with the SAA. As new offices begin to settle in, Karen is meeting individually with key staff to introduce the office to the *Senators' Office Archives Toolkit*, a records management guide.
- We reached out directly to state offices in March through a video seminar on records management for state offices.
- Future guidance for members includes an updated version of the Senator's records disposition schedule. The schedule is designed to complement the *Toolkit*.
- As always, we stand ready to help you with any aspect of the sometimes "complicated" negotiations and procedures that occur when a member retires and determines to transfer his or her collection to you! We welcome your visit if you are in Washington to see a Senator from your state or if you just wish to contact us to discuss issues related to preservation of a Senator's collection. It truly benefits the collection when we can all work together.

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Committee Records Preservation

With the change in Senate majority, we have been working steadily with committees to manage the change and preserve their records. We had a record breaking 60% change in committee majority and ranking staff directors in the New Year. Record transfers have been heavy as was expected with ca 650 accessions since January.

Social Media Archiving

At the end of 2013, Senate Historical Office archivists joined Sergeant at Arms' Technology Advisory Group (TAG) – to assess, identify and contract with vendors to provide a solution to archive social media content and associated metadata. We have licenses with three vendors that are available to offices that wish to preserve this data and we are recommending that members' offices archive their social media once a Congress.

Constituent Services System (CSS) Data Downloads

As congressional repositories begin to acquire staff to curate their digital collections, they are seeking a fuller extraction of data from the CSS systems used by members of Congress. (Note the two case studies provided to the Roundtable by the Russell Library and the University of Montana.)

We began discussions with the Senate Sergeant-at-Arms to investigate the feasibility of a full export of all data tables, but cost, system differences, and volume considerations were prohibitive. The Senate Data Interchange Format (available if an office moves from one system to another) was suggested as an alternative because it is common to all four systems in use in the Senate and it contains ca 230 tables vs the 32 tables currently offered in the Senate CSS Data Archiving Format. We have been working on this issue for quite some time and are very gratified to see it moving forward.

A member who just retired elected to archive his entire database as well as the Senate Exchange Format. We are hoping that this robust download will be used to explore the possibility of building some form of database, possibly an open source database that could be customized and made available to individual congressional repositories. This could be a grant funded project. We are hoping that more members will elect to receive the expanded data export and that our congressional centers will pursue the challenge of building a specific vehicle to receive and reactivate constituent data.

National Digital Stewardship Resident Fellow

The SHO is hosting an NDSR Fellow this year and I introduce you to Mr. John Caldwell who is spending a year with us to document our digital records accessioning process. He will also begin to investigate preservation procedures in members' offices. He will be testing specific software to identify products that can improve curation practices while records are still in Senate offices, focusing on digital preservation best practices such as file fixity and format identification before collections are moved and processed. He will produce a white paper outlining his findings and making suggestions for implementing specific practices moving forward. John is interested in hearing from any CPR members who have insights or suggestions to share with regard to electronic records and would be delighted if any of you would like to contact him to talk more specifically about your programs and issues you face when receiving Senate records electronically.

(Meeting Minutes— U.S. House Report, from page 4)

U.S. House of Representatives Report by Robin Reeder

Since our last CPR meeting in August 2014:

Archival Services

Since the last CPR meeting, we consulted with 37 Member offices. In total for the 113th Congress –70 House Members left. For our final statistics, we met with 40 of these Members, which is 57% percent. We also participated in the departing Member briefings put together by the Chief Administrative Officer's office – and a panel titled “Life After Congress” sponsored by the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress. My colleagues Heather Bourk and Alison Trulock taught records management classes through the House Learning Center to Member offices and committees: they taught 3 committee classes and 5 Member classes. They have revamped the classes some and are including Michelle Strizever to discuss photographs.

Other statistics

- Courtesy storage: 2
- Consultations with Committees: Total: 11
- Records transferred through us: Total: 1,884,750 pages, or approximately 1005 cubic feet.
- Loans: 195,000 pages, or approximately 104 cubic feet.
- Records transferred to NARA: 902,250 pages or 481 cubic feet
- Empty boxes: Total: 119 cartons – 2380 boxes or (952 cubic feet) sent out to committees
- Electronic records: 1227 Gigabytes
- Photos cataloged since last meeting – including oversized photos that have been accessioned, cataloged, scanned, and housed in photo sleeves and oversized folders: 594

Special Projects

- ACRC – 2 meetings in December and June.
- We processed and transferred 241 boxes to the National Archives of committee records returned to us from the John Moss papers at California State University. These records contain important documentation of the development of the Freedom of Information Act. They have passed the 30 year closure period and once screened by the Center will serve as a significant research resource.
- Heather Bourk, our assistant archivist, wrote an article about alienated records for the upcoming Congressional Papers Roundtable newsletter, which you all have. This is part of an effort to try to increase outreach to current Members about their committee records, in addition to working with repositories. Heather also is researching and drafting a proposal for new equipment to improve processing of House electronic records.
- Alison Trulock coordinated and finalized our strategic plan for the Archives division, which covers our goals as an office for the next 10 years. To help keep us on track with the strategic plan, Alison has also introduced us to a web-based project management software program, which other departments in the Clerk's Office are also now using. Alison also is overseeing the description of our records in Archivists' Toolkit and managing the flow of committee records to us and the Center for Legislative Archives.
- In an effort to improve our web presence, we recently re-organized the “Records and Research” page on the history.house.gov website and added new featured content highlighting House records. Also, our office is on Twitter: @USHouseHistory.

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(U.S. House Report, continued from page 10)

- Michelle Strizever presented to the cataloging section of the Art Libraries Society of North America (ARLIS) conference back in March. She gave a talk about cataloging photos and visual materials, and she used examples from the House Collection.

Michelle and I participated in the #AskAnArchivist Day sponsored by the Society of American Archivists and held on Twitter on October 30th. We posted 23 tweets, and questions included largest items, most interesting documents, most challenging records, most surprising items, oldest records, and whether all archivists orderly outside of work. Michelle and Heather will be doing the #AskAnArchivist Day in October. We will be tweeting about it so stay tuned!

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Association of Centers for the Study of Congress Report by Betsy Pittman

The ACSC has been busy over the past year:

Leadership Turnover

In March, Jay Wyatt (Robert C. Byrd Center for Legislative Studies, Shepherd University), Betsy Pittman (Thomas J. Dodd Research Center, UCONN) and Danielle Emerling (West Virginia & Regional History Center, WVU) assumed the roles of ACSC President, Vice President, and Treasurer. Dorothy Walker (South Carolina Political Collections, USC) retains her position as Secretary.



Debbie Davendonis-Todd (Baylor Collections of Political Materials), Nathan Gertz (Carl Albert Center, OU), and Lori Schwartz (Dr. C.C. & Mabel L. Criss Library, Nebraska Omaha) have each taken positions on the ACSC Executive Committee.

Membership

ACSC welcomed several new institutional and individual members over the past year, including:

Institutional

West Virginia & Regional History Center
 Drake University Archives and Special Collections
 Dr. C.C. and Mabel Criss Library Archives & Special Collections, U. of Nebraska Omaha
 Ted Stevens Foundation

Individual

Kate Stewart, Senator Barbara Mikulski's Office
 Betty Koed, U.S. Senate Historical Office
 Julia Howington, John Joseph Moakley Archive & Institute, Suffolk University
 William Arthur, Senate Health, Education, Labor & Pensions Committee
 Robert Lay, University of North Texas Libraries
 Marc Levitt, National Naval Aviation Museum

In an effort to continue this upward trend, ACSC established a formal membership committee chaired by Rebecca Johnson Melvin, University Delaware Libraries.

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Research Grant Awards

This year, the ACSC has awarded \$1750 in grant money as part of our Grants for Research in Congressional Collections program. The awards have gone to scholars conducting significant research on the History of the National League of POW/MIA Families, the origins of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Senator Robert C. Byrd's Leadership of the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee during the 1990s, and on the growth of foreign-owned auto manufacturing plants in America during the late 20th century. The scope of these projects speaks to the wide utility that congressional collections offer researchers, and we're excited to support this work.

Travel Awards

In the spring of 2015, ACSC selected recipients for three annual awards. Callie Holmes received support to attend ACSC's annual meeting in Washington, D.C., as the recipient of the 2015 Raymond W. Smock Fellowship. Ms. Holmes is the Oral History and Media Archivist at the Richard B. Russell Library for Political Research and Studies at the University of Georgia. Evan Rothera received the 2015 Richard Baker Graduate Student Research Travel Grant, allowing him to visit the political collections of the Indiana University Libraries. Mr. Rothera is a PhD candidate at Penn State; his research project is entitled, "A Cowardly Course vs. Prudent and Intelligent Statesmanship: Midwesterners Debate the Mexico Question." Finally, Shae Rafferty is this year's recipient of the Congressional Papers Roundtable Pre-Conference Scholarship, supporting her attendance at CPR during the annual meeting of the Society of American Archivists in Cleveland. As Congressional Records Archivist at the Bentley Historical Library of the University of Michigan, Ms. Rafferty is working on the papers of Carl Levin and John Dingell, Jr.

Congress Week

From April 1-7, ACSC celebrated Congress Week. This year's theme was "The People's Branch." In addition to adding new content to the www.congressweek.org website, developed last year, the ACSC's Congress Week team developed a marketing package that was distributed to more than 120 institutions and libraries to promote the event. ACSC's 2016 Congress Week theme will focus on the 225th anniversary of the ratification of the Bill of Rights.

The Great Society Digital Exhibit

ACSC also launched The Great Society Congress, a collaborative digital exhibition that highlights the many achievements of the 89th United States Congress during Congress Week 2015. The exhibit includes profiles of House and Senate party leaders, key legislation passed by the Congress, and some of the broad social, cultural, and political issues that emerged in America between 1965 and 1966. The exhibit now includes more than 240 images, documents, and videos contributed by 14 ACSC members. New content is being added on a rolling basis in conjunction with the 50th anniversary of each historically significant piece of Great Society Legislation, so check it out frequently at acsc.lib.udel.edu/great-congress or by simply Googling "The Great Society Congress."

Educational and Learning Tools

As we move toward 2016, ACSC intends to develop new educational resources and learning tools to be added to both the Congress Week website and The Great Society Digital Exhibit.

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(ACSC Report, continued from page 12)

Social Media

In an effort to further promote these initiatives and better engage our audiences, the ACSC has established a new Communications Committee, which will, among other things, begin work on an updated website and coordinate content for our social media platforms. You can stay up to date with our activities by following us on Twitter, Tumblr, and soon, Facebook.

2016 Annual Meeting

Finally, the 2016 ACSC Annual Meeting will be held at the new Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate in Boston, on May 11-13, 2016. Karen Paul, Archivist with the U.S. Senate Historical Office, has generously volunteered to Chair this year's program committee. Planning for the event is underway now, but it does look as though attendees will get to experience the full-scale replica of the Senate Chamber and the Institute's new Senate Immersion Module for students and educators while there. The ACSC annual meeting is always a fun and informative event, and it's a real perk of membership within the organization. We encourage anyone interested in attending to consider joining ACSC.

You can learn more about ACSC, its mission, and how to become a member at www.congresscenters.org.

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Presentation: *Preserving a Montana Senator's Image: The Lee Metcalf Photograph and Film Collection Project* Privacy by Matthew M. Peek, State Archives of North Carolina

Introduction

- Post-WWII U.S. congressmen changed the manner in which they utilized, produced, printed, and published their photographs
- Little is understood properly about how congressmen used and organized their images, especially by archivists who typically do not individually identify images due to the sheer number and belief that they cannot identify the images

Project Description

- Montana Historical Society (MHS) received a CLIR Cataloging Hidden Collections grant for the Lee Metcalf Photograph and Film Collections Project. Senator Metcalf was the longest serving Acting President Pro Tempore of the U.S. Senate, serving from June 1963 to January 1978, and a House member from 1953 to 1960.
- The first year of project: researching, sorting, identifying, organizing, describing, and preserving the original 4,454 photographic prints, negatives, and slides documenting Metcalf's life and work. The second year involved cleaning, preserving, researching, identifying, and rehousing the 300-plus film reels
- Interviewed more than 55 people: former friends, staff members, conservation activists, and state politicians with connections to Metcalf
- Researched in Metcalf's papers for uses of and descriptions of images in papers, letters, and committee hearing records

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(Presentation, continued from page 13)

Process

Existing arrangement of the photograph collection based largely on the Lee Metcalf Papers' folder subjects and categories, which greatly expanded the utility of both collections in relation to one another

- This organization of images and documents was original intention of the Metcalf staff's filing system. Interviews and research helped narrow research focus to themes and subject areas commonly identified in Metcalf's photographs
- With this, discovered more information faster about the images in the collection
- Found online resources that helped to identify elements of his history in Congress
 - NewspaperArchive.com: Full-text newspaper OCR search, indicates images in article search abstracts limited by date(s)
 - Wikipedia: Lists of congressmen by session, with representative images of congressmen
 - Presidential libraries' online photos: Truman to Ford—images with descriptions online, showing congressmen with descriptions of events at different times
- Newspapers: Published photographs of senator visiting constituents, talking with other politicians, testifying in committees, hitting the campaign trail, and attending Montana events and dedications. Staff typed descriptions on carbon paper that were taped to the back of photos sent to the newspapers. Newspapers published these captions and image descriptions word-for-word Metcalf's newsletters and publications: Provided dates, descriptions, and context for images
- Metcalf's films: Photographs used for congressional constituent films—photograph IDs help ID film subject content and dates
- Metcalf's papers: Office schedules, constituent letters sent with photographs, committee hearing records mentioning images, etc., help ID images and provide dates

U.S. Senate Democratic Photograph Studio

- Never identified before
- Operated from circa 1959 to 1980s, merged with Republican Senate Studio in 1972
- Al and Frank Muto—main two photographers through 1974
- When Metcalf's staff needed copy prints from negatives held by the Democratic studio or by Metcalf's office, they sent a letter to the Mutos asking for prints
- Senate Photograph Studio maintained negatives for senators, writing print sizes ordered on negative sleeve
- Wrote dates on negative sleeves—dates either when images taken or when negatives sleeved
- By using visual markers in the photographs and dates printed on the back of prints (dates usually marked in blue ink) created by the Senate studio, identified and paired prints with their corresponding Democratic studio negatives (prints and negatives separated by 30+ years)
- Senators and the Senate photographs had specific places in their offices where they liked photographs to be taken for certain occasions, or with certain people
- Metcalf had framed Native American headdress on the wall just inside the door to his personal office. He liked to have pictures taken in front of it with staff members and summer interns
- If there was an unidentified photograph of a young person with Metcalf in his office, and they were standing in front of this framed headdress, could assume person was a staff member or intern (verify in newspapers)
- Because archivists and historians have not been familiar with the operation or existence of the Democratic photographs, many archives that received negatives from the U.S. Senate Historical Office have not known who took the images

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(Presentation, continued from page 14)

- The images remain limited for use by researchers and historians, because of questions about copyright and creator
- Because Senate Democratic Photograph Studio was paid for from public funds, all of the images taken by the photographers are in the public domain
- 2008: Senate Historical Office repatriates negatives to institutions with congressional papers— however, institutions do not know where the images came from or how they were used
- Remain unidentified and separated from print collections, especially where multiple institutions have a congressman's papers divided amongst them

THE CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS GOES OUT..

Greetings CPR members!

Have you considered taking on a leadership role in the Congressional Papers Roundtable? Is CPR Steering Committee calling your name? Do you have a colleague that would be just dynamite as CPR Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect?

The Nominating Committee asks for recommendations and volunteers for the following election slate:

- **Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect.** The individual elected to this post will serve as a member of the Steering Committee and co-chair of the Electronic Records Committee for 2016-2017. The next year, this person would become chair of CPR followed by another year as immediate past chair (member of Steering Committee and chair of Nominating Committee). Consequently, this post is actually a **three-year commitment** in time and energy.
- **Members of Steering Committee.** Two individuals will be elected to serve **two-year terms** on the CPR Steering Committee. During their first year, the members will serve on the Nominating Committee followed by a year on the Program Committee.

All candidates must be members of both the Society of American Archivists as well as the Congressional Papers Roundtable. Officers are expected to attend the annual meetings.

If you wish to nominate someone for the slate, please confirm that the person would be willing and able to serve if elected. Volunteers are encouraged and welcomed!

Please direct all submissions to Rob Spindler at Rob.Spindler@asu.edu **by January 1st.** Prospective candidates should supply the Nominating Committee with their title, institution, education, and a brief one-paragraph biography as well as answers to the following questions: "What is your experience with congressional papers?"; "What do you bring to the CPR Steering Committee?"; and "What would you like CPR to accomplish in the next 3-5 years?"

CPR is an active and productive roundtable...but it requires a regular influx of members who are willing to step forward and assume leadership responsibility. Become a part of the CPR legacy and provide a service that rewards both you and your profession!



Electronic Records Committee Update

Since the annual meeting in Cleveland, OH, the Electronic Records Committee (ERC) has been busy creating a new website and planning a membership transition.

In November 2015 we revealed our new website (<https://cprerc.wordpress.com/>), which features blog posts; the committee's operational documents, including annual reports and meeting minutes; case studies relating to acquisition, accessioning, processing, and preservation; sample repository documents, including workflows, policy documents, processing documents, and access procedures. You will also be able to find other resources on the site applicable to managing congressional electronic records including vendor information, funding resources, and a list of commonly used tools.

We invite those interested in writing a blog post, contributing a case study, or sharing repository documents to please contact the committee via the website. Our thanks go to Adriane Hanson of the University of Georgia and Anu Kasarabada of the Senate Judiciary Committee for their excellent work and effort!

At the end of 2015, we say goodbye to two ERC members as their term limits expire. We would like to thank member Anu Kasarabada and co-chair Jan Zastrow for their hard work and many contributions to the committee. Thank you both for your service!

In October, the CPR Steering Committee sent out a call for volunteers for the ERC. We are pleased to announce three new members who will join the committee in January 2016:

1. Elisabeth Butler, Deputy Senate Archivist, Senate Historical Office
2. Gregory Wiedeman, University Archivist, University at Albany, SUNY
3. Jim Havron, Archivist and Oral History Projects Coordinator, Albert Gore Research Center, Middle Tennessee State University.

We welcome Elisabeth, Gregory, and Jim to the team and look forward to another productive year!

- Danielle Emerling and Katie Delacenserie

Dole Institute Celebrates ADA Anniversary

By Audrey Coleman, Erin Wolfe, and Sarah D'Antonio



July 2015 marked the 25th anniversary of the ratification of the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act. Signed into law by President George H.W. Bush, the passage of the act was one of Bob Dole's self-proclaimed "proudest moments." To celebrate this bipartisan legislative achievement, the Dole Institute of Politics, home to the Dole Archives, launched the commemorateADA initiative, which combines a physical and digital exhibit, a 5-part programming series, and research awards – all with the Archives playing an integral role.

The opening of the Dole Archives original exhibit, "Celebrating Opportunity for People with Disabilities: 70 Years of Dole Leadership," kicked off the programming series and festivities at the Dole Institute on July 26th. [The opening event](#) took place on the second day of what became an ADA commemorative weekend in the local Lawrence community. Independence, Inc. of Lawrence and other disability advocacy and service organizations hosted an event on Saturday at the Lawrence Public Library. Dr. Ray Mizumura-Pence, a lecturer in the American Studies department at the University of Kansas, who contributed to the research and writing of our *Celebrating Opportunity* exhibit, was a featured speaker at the community event. The ADA commemorative weekend and exhibit opening was featured on *Kansas Public Radio Presents*, a locally-produced hour-long weekly program. The podcast became a July 28, 2015, blog post that can be accessed at <http://kansaspublishradio.org/news/kpr-presents?page=1>.



Simultaneously, a three-part website was created to reproduce the physical exhibit on display at the Dole Institute, as well as to expand it with additional archival materials and resources. The first part is an online representation of the physical exhibit: a semi-chronological story of Bob Dole's life-long involvement with disability rights. Featuring over 75 archival documents and photographs, the exhibit traces Dole's advocacy efforts on behalf of people with disabilities from his own struggles following his injuries in World War II, to his current and continuing efforts with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), wounded veterans, and other disability-related causes.

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Senator Dole congratulates a Special Olympics medal winner, 1970.

(Dole/ADA Celebration, continued from page 17)



The second part of the website serves as a dissemination platform for archival materials. Drawing on a number of our collections, the Dole Archives digitized 12,392 pages of primary source documents related to the ADA. These documents were all digitized in-house and made available as PDF files via an interactive interface.

The third part of the website, "In the Classroom," provides resources for middle and high school teachers. Utilizing a number of primary source materials, members of the KU Council for the Social Studies (KUCSS) developed a freely available lesson plan geared toward government and history teachers to discuss bipartisanship using the passage and application of the ADA as a real world example. Our new Public Education Coordinator, Julie Bergene, presented with KUCSS students at the National Council for the Social Studies conference in November. Julie and the group of pre-service teachers presented the lesson plans they had prepared for the Dole Institute, featuring those on the *Celebrating Opportunity* web site as well as new installments pertaining to CRPD.



As a service for visually impaired individuals, the Dole Archives partnered with the Kansas Audio-Reader Network to create an audio narration and description of the physical exhibit, which is accessible in-house via individual QR codes for each section, as well as on the web site. In September 2015, the website received a Technology Award from the Kansas Museums Association. The full online project is available at <http://dolearchivecollections.ku.edu/collections/ada/>.

[The second commemorate ADA program](#) was an interview with United States International Council on Disabilities leaders David Morrissey and Marca Bristo discussing the importance of the ADA, what it has accomplished, and disability policy for the future. A pre-event dinner honored the recipients of \$40,000 in research awards sponsored by General Electric, including three project teams and two archival research fellowships.

General Electric's gift made possible two additional research fellowships this year. Dr. Mizumura-Pence, who contributed to our *Celebrating Opportunity* exhibit as a researcher and co-writer, became our GE Curatorial Research Fellow. He also researched in the Dole Archives for his own project, a monograph in progress entitled *Bodies, Hearts, and Minds: A Social and Cultural History of Veterans with Disabilities from Vietnam to the*

Wars on Terror. Christian G n reux, a political science graduate student from the University du Quebec a Montreal, received the GE Archival Research Fellowship and visited the Archives to study the interactions of the United States Congress with the disability community. The three GE-sponsored project teams are researching "Examining Evidence-based Strategies to Reduce ADA Access Aisle Parking Violations," "Development of an Evidence-Based Updated Advocacy Letter Training Package," and "Exploring Data Sources for the Study of ADA Effects on Employment Patterns of Individuals with Disabilities."



Year of the ADA logo from commemorative t-shirt, 1990

In October, the Dole Archives presented "Your Story, His Story, the Legacy: The 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act," an installment of their program

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(Dole/DAD Celebration, continued from page 18)

series. [The third commemorateADA program](#) featured an interview with one of Dole’s legislative assistants for disability issues, Maureen “Mo” West and selections from the Dole Archives. Prior to the Legacy event, which also took place in honor of American Archives Month, a private dinner reunited Ms. West with Kansas disability advocates with whom she worked in the late 1980s. In the future, we will build on these new relationships to create a new oral history collecting project.

[A fourth program](#), held in recognition of Constitution Day, featured a discussion of the ADA from a legal perspective. Interviewees included Stephen McAllister, KU professor of Constitutional law and former interim director of the Dole Institute, and Gary Norman, disability rights attorney.



Genereux and Mizumura-Pence were recognized at a Friends of the Dole Institute-sponsored coffee event on December 9th, rounding out the slate of commemorateADA programming in 2015. Both Fellows discussed their findings in the Dole collections. We anticipate that the three GE-sponsored research projects will present their findings in spring 2016.



Heather Perry shows books that she has used

The *Celebrating Opportunity* exhibit became the programmatic center of many Archives department-sponsored activities. KU classes visited the exhibit and studied featured primary sources. These classes included KU Undergraduate Honors seminars, one of which incorporated a visit from KU Visiting Scholar and UNC Professor Heather Perry, who approaches disability from an interdisciplinary perspective, focusing on WWI veterans, as well as American Studies courses and Women’s Studies courses. Perry’s visit to KU was sponsored by the campus World War I Centennial Commemoration Committee. The Dole Archives-sponsored Honors seminar incorporated discussion of disability issues as presented in the exhibit, readings, and accompanying public programming; students completed a project in which they each studied a different box of disability-related files,

over two-three visits to the Archives, and synthesized their knowledge of disability issues, policy development, public service, and archives in an active in-class discussion.



Students work with primary sources from the Dole Archives in the Reading Room.

Commemorating this piece of legislation, often referred to as the “last civil rights law of the 20th century,” was a project ripe for the Dole Archives, as Dole’s official repository of working papers.

INSTITUTIONAL UPDATES

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

Longtime BCPM Director Ben Rogers retired May 31. Debbie Davendonis-Todd, Bill Hair and Mary Goolsby have been working with John Wilson, associate dean of special libraries to build upon the good work Ben did during his 23 years as director. Ben can still be reached through his Baylor email account [ben_rogers@baylor.edu], although he checks it sporadically.



iEngage Summer Civics Institute

Since 2012, BCPM has participated in the Baylor School of Education's [iEngage Summer Civics Institute](#). Generously funded by the [Hatton W. Sumners Foundation](#), iEngage is a free, five-day civics day camp designed to help students learn how to make a difference in their neighborhood, school,



and community. Participants build important leadership skills through interactions with local civic leaders, simulations, and service-learning. On August 4, more than 100 students passed through the four stations set up at BCPM to help them learn about civic engagement and advocacy, as well as the work of a legislative archive.

"Our partnership with BCPM has allowed us to show students unique and engaging accounts of civic advocacy and community improvement through a variety of primary sources. Students are able to see firsthand how others have engaged in civic advocacy at the local, state, and national level and in turn are able to envision how they might continue civic advocacy efforts." - *Dr. Brooke Blevins and Dr. Karon LeCompte, Baylor School of Education*

Treats and Treasures

Throughout the month of October, BCPM celebrated American Archives Month through our "Treats and Treasures" Blog Series. Graduate Assistant and English PhD candidate Zach Kastens worked closely with Debbie Davendonis-Todd to select materials. Read the posts at: <https://blogs.baylor.edu/poagelibrary/category/american-archives-month/>. The month-long series highlighted materials from the papers of Reps. Bob Poage, Chet Edwards, Alan Steelman, and O.C. Fisher.

New Website Launched

Team BCPM pulled together to create, gather, write, edit, and proofread content for the new website which launched on September 23. The site is easier to navigate on mobile devices and pared down to be more user friendly.



W. R. Poage Distinguished Chair of Public Service

Former Congressman **Chet Edwards** was in-residence the weeks of October 19 and November 16. Chet taught 16 classes, spoke to seven student groups, participated in five planning meetings and worked one-on-one with eight students. He held classes in political science, leadership development, Texas and US history, mass communications and social work.

Edwards became the W. R. Poage Distinguished Chair of Public Service in January 2013.

- *Mary Goolsby*

Bentley Historical Library

The Bentley Historical Library at the University of Michigan has acquired the papers of former U.S. Senator Carl Levin. The collection was formally presented to the archive at an event held at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library on November 4, 2015. The collection consists of about 1500

boxes of material and 4 hard drives. Carl Levin is recognized as the longest serving Senator from Michigan with a 36-year-long career (1979-2015). Levin served on the Armed Services Committee, Governmental Affairs Committee, and Small Business



Carl and Barbara Levin.
Photograph by Lon Horwedel

Committee for the entirety of his 36 years in the Senate. As Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee and his work on other committees, Levin worked to authorize defense budgets and cut spending waste, bring attention to the practice of corporations using tax havens to avoid paying millions of dollars in taxes, help reform campaign financing, amongst so many other accomplishments. He was also a huge advocate for business and government ethics, the environment, and of course his home state of Michigan. The Bentley Historical Library is very excited to acquire these papers and expects to open the collection to the public in 2017 after they have been processed by the congressional records archivist.

-Shae Rafferty, Congressional Records Archivist

Dole Institute of Politics

This summer the Dole Institute kicked off “commemorateADA” – a series of events dedicated to disability issues and advocacy for the 25th

anniversary of the signing of The Americans with Disabilities Act. The Dole Archives opened a physical and digital exhibit, *Celebrating Opportunity for People with Disabilities: 70 Years of Dole Leadership*, on July 26th, which shares stories of Bob Dole’s decades-long drive to make our nation a better place for all Americans, as illustrated by the ADA and its core values. (see article on pages 17-19)

In honor of American Archives Month, the Dole Institute presented a fourth installment of the historical interview series “Your Story, His Story, the Legacy: The 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act” featuring Dole legislative assistant Maureen “Mo” West as well as images and footage from the Dole Archives. You can [watch the program](#) and others in the commemorateADA series on the Dole Institute’s YouTube channel.



Senior Archivist Audrey Coleman interviews Mo West, one of Dole’s former legislative assistants.

In August the Dole Archives welcomed Julie Bergene as our new Public Education Coordinator! She came to us with previous informal education experience from Kansas City and most recently, Salt Lake City, Utah, where she traveled across the state educating elementary students for museum outreach. She will be advancing critical thinking skills and coordinating diverse and engaging programs focusing on history, civics, and government primary sources through the lens of the Dole Archives and its mission. She leads K-12 and family education programs, including on-site, outreach, and online initiatives.

During the fall semester Julie, along with the assistance of the Dole Archives, has been supporting the University of Kansas Council for the Social Studies (KUCSS) pre-service student group with

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(Dole Institute, continued from page 21)

their presentation at the National Council for the Social Studies Annual Conference in New Orleans in November. For several years we have been helping KUCSS at their weekly meetings designing lesson plans to be used for education initiatives at the Dole Institute. This year's presentation included information and digitized archival materials on the ADA and other disability legislation. Lesson plans and materials will be available via the education section of the Dole Institute of Politics website soon.

Sarah D'Antonio presented at the Missouri Association of Museums and Archives conference held at the University of Missouri in Columbia on using exhibit design to engage students in the process of recovering history. Together with Caitlin Donnelly and Beth Whittaker from the Kenneth Spencer Research Library at the University of Kansas, we talked about our experiences working with students from KU's museum studies program to produce exhibits, and what we have learned along the way.



Sybil Stockdale, founder of the National League of POW/MIA Families, an unidentified man, and Senator Dole speaking at the POW press conference on May 1, 1970.

We have had a busy slate of researchers, including our 2015 Research Fellow Rebecca Stoil and Dr. Ray Pence, who received our GE Curatorial Research Fellowship, generously funded by General Electric. We also hosted independent historian Heath Lee, on a Dole Archives Travel Grant. Lee's book project, *Vietnam War Wives*, is a history of the National League of POW/MIA Families and a biography of four influential women – Sybil Stockdale, Jane Denton, Phyllis Galanti, and Helene Knapp – who started the movement which turned into a powerful lobbying organization. She was also nominated for and received a \$500 ACSC Grant for Research in Congressional Collections.

The Agency, a student-run strategic communications agency under the KU William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications, has created a new documentary, *The Senator: Bob Dole's Life of Leadership*, which includes recent interviews with Dole and his contemporaries and highlights footage and digitized material from the Dole Archives. The documentary premiered at the annual Friends of the Dole Institute dinner in October; the journalism school is in talks regarding the distribution strategy of the documentary.

It probably goes without saying that we were all very excited about the Kansas City Royals winning the World Series this year... to celebrate the Dole Archives curated a digital exhibit commemorating the 30th anniversary of the Royals' 1985 World Series win.



The 1985 World Series Kansas City Royals baseball team in the Majority Leader office. Many of the team signed their names to the photograph.

The exhibit centers around the team's celebratory visit to Washington D.C., arranged by then-Majority Leader Dole and other Senators from Missouri and Kansas. Highlighting a number of documents, photos and objects from our collections, this timely exhibit coincides nicely with the Royals' 2015 World Series win and an upcoming (December 2015) program at the Dole Institute featuring Royals' General Manager Dayton Moore. You can view the digital exhibit at <http://dolearchivecollections.ku.edu/collections/kcroys/>.

- Sarah D'Antonio

South Carolina Political Collections

Electronic records

Since starting as SCPC's first Digital Initiatives Archivist in April, Laura Litwer has been developing SCPC's ability to work with born-digital materials. We now have a dedicated electronic records workstation and have begun ingesting born-digital records. Laura continues to work on developing our policies, procedures, and workflows for born-digital materials, preparing informational materials for donors' staff, surveying our current born-digital holdings, and surveying our analog audiovisual holdings as part of a large-scale digitization effort. She and Associate Director Dorothy Walker are working with other members of the USC Libraries to address larger digital preservation issues.

University of South Carolina creates Center for Civil Rights History and Research

The University of South Carolina will establish a Center for Civil Rights History and Research to chronicle the contributions of the Palmetto State to the American civil rights movement. University President Harris Pastides announced the creation of the center Monday (Nov. 23). It will be the first single entity dedicated to telling South Carolina's civil rights story. Also Monday, Rep. James Clyburn, the state's first African-American member of Congress since Reconstruction and the assistant House Democratic leader, said he would donate his Congressional papers to the new center.

"I am honored to add my Congressional papers to the University of South Carolina's significant civil rights collection. The establishment of the Center for Civil Rights History and Research allows for my Congressional papers to be a part of a larger effort to give vibrancy to South Carolina's history and credence to its civil rights activities," Clyburn said. "I look forward to the center, and my papers, helping us learn valuable lessons from our experiences."

The University of South Carolina has a significant collection of papers from noted civil rights leaders, including Joseph A. De Laine, John Bolt Culbertson, I. DeQuincey Newman and Modjeska Monteith Simkins, but currently they are not housed collectively or used in a way to best tell South Carolina's story.

"In 2013, when USC commemorated the 50th anniversary of USC's desegregation, our community of scholars had an opportunity to hear first-hand narratives from two of the university's desegregation pioneers. At that time, we had already built a substantial political collection from key South Carolina figures, but realized that there needed to be an additional place to zero in on the state's unique civil rights history—a place that would be accessible not only to USC students but to scholars worldwide," Pastides said. "The Center for Civil Rights History and Research, anchored by Congressman Clyburn's Congressional papers, is that place, and will house a substantial and growing collection that will tell the story of the ongoing struggle for equality and social justice in South Carolina."

The center, a joint initiative with the College of Arts and Sciences, will be housed in the Ernest F. Hollings Special Collections Library and will provide educational programming, public engagement through conferences and lectures, and a treasure trove of primary documents for students and scholars interested in civil rights, said University Libraries Dean Thomas McNally.

"The story of the civil rights struggle in South Carolina has not been fully told," McNally said. "This center captures what we already have and it becomes a magnet for papers that have not been committed yet. The Congressman's lead in giving his Congressional papers to get us started is a significant beginning."

Bobby Donaldson, a UofSC history professor and faculty principal of Preston Residential College, will chair the implementation committee, a group of 24 university and community leaders who will help guide the establishment of the new center.

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(SCPC, continued from page 23)

“We’ve formed an implementation committee that represents leading work in civil rights scholarship at the university,” Donaldson said. “It brings together faculty and colleagues in education, arts and sciences, law, journalism and the libraries to work together on this.”

He said the center will build upon important groundwork that has been going on for decades on the UofSC campus in civil rights history, research and advocacy. The university has developed civil rights programming and teacher training workshops, and has acquired and processed important archival collections, including a path-breaking oral history project completed in the 1980s by Grace Jordan McFadden. The African American Studies program also has sponsored a series of events focused on civil rights in South Carolina.

“We’ve had a number of important projects and initiatives often shaped around a particular historic milestone or anniversary,” he said.

Donaldson said the collection of Congressional papers from Clyburn – an influential elected official who also is a veteran of the civil rights movement -- is a tremendous plus for the university.

“It is an important foundation for us to build upon. Hopefully, Congressman Clyburn’s collection will inspire others to consider the university as a repository for their papers,” Donaldson said. “His papers will be used by scholars and students, as part of classroom instruction and will lead to innovative programming designed for members of the university and the wider community.”

McNally said he envisions a center where visitors can learn through exhibits and programs and where students and scholars can conduct research using original documents.

“Many young people today don’t know this state’s civil rights story or comprehend the sacrifice and courage of those involved in the movement,” he said. “Our collections contain personal accounts that tell South Carolina’s story in a way that will bring to life this transformational time in our history.”

McNally said the center will start small, initially being housed in the Hollings Library. He hopes that eventually there will be a facility for the center, similar to those in other states around the country.

“We have a dream,” McNally said. “That dream is for a place where people can come and celebrate the courage of those who made this struggle in our state.”

Donaldson said he hopes the South Carolina center becomes a national model for interdisciplinary work in the area of civil rights research, programming and advocacy. “I hope the university becomes a destination for those seeking to know more about civil rights history in South Carolina and for those interested in connecting events of the past to current struggles for social justice, equal opportunity and human rights,” Donaldson said.

-Laura Litwer

West Virginia University

The West Virginia and Regional History Center of the West Virginia University Libraries is pleased to announce the acquisition of the Senator John D. (Jay) Rockefeller IV papers and the Congressman Nick Joe Rahall II papers.

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(West Virginia, continued from page 24)



Senator Jay Rockefeller in 1985.

Senator John Davison (Jay) Rockefeller IV served the people and state of West Virginia for more than 50 years. Rockefeller came to West Virginia in 1964 as a 27-year-old VISTA volunteer in the small community of Emmons, an experience that shaped his extensive career in public service. He served in the West Virginia House of Delegates (1966-1968); as Secretary of State of West Virginia (1968-1972); President of West Virginia Wesleyan College (1973-1976); and Governor of West Virginia (1977-1985). In 1984 he was elected to the United States Senate as a Democrat and was reelected four times, in 1990, 1996, 2002, and 2008, before retiring in 2015.

In the Senate, Rockefeller was a champion 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 (1993-1994, 2001-2003); the Select Committee on Intelligence (2007-2009); the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation (2009-2015); and the Committee on Finance Subcommittee on Medicare and Long-term Care (1989-1994, 2001-2003, 2007-2014). He also served as vice-chair of the Select Committee on Intelligence (2003-2006).

Senator Rockefeller donated his papers documenting his 30-year tenure in the United States Senate to the WVU Libraries in November 2014. The papers total more than 2,100 lin. ft. and 2 terabytes. WVU also announced the naming of the John D. Rockefeller IV School of Policy and Politics. The School brings together WVU's aca-

democratic programs in political science, public administration, international studies, and leadership studies and aims to advance public policy development and implementation.

In October 2015, the WVU Libraries received the papers of Congressman Nick Joe Rahall II. Rahall represented West Virginia's Third District in the United States House of Representatives as a Democrat from 1977-2015. From 2007-2011, he served as chair of the Committee on Natural Resources. Before entering Congress, from 1971-1974, he was a staff member in the United States Senate Office of the Majority Whip, and he was a delegate to both the 1972 and 1976 Democratic National Conventions. In 2014, he ran unsuccessfully as a candidate for reelection.

Congressman Rahall advocated for mine safety regulations and black lung benefits for miners. He brought millions of dollars to West Virginia for highway projects, including the King Coal Highway and Coalfields Expressway. He also helped in steering legislation creating the New River Gorge National River. The Rahall papers total more than 2,089 lin. ft.



Congressman Nick Joe Rahall (left) with Senator Robert Byrd in 1989.

The Rockefeller and Rahall papers join an extensive collection that includes the papers of more than two dozen state legislators, governors, and members of Congress from West Virginia held by the West Virginia and Regional History Center.

In June 2015, Danielle Emerling joined the West Virginia and Regional History Center as Assistant Curator, Congressional and Political Papers Archivist, to oversee the Center's Congressional and Political Papers Collection.

- Danielle Emerling

Willamette University

The Willamette University Archives is pleased to announce the papers of U.S. Senator Robert W. “Bob” Packwood are now being processed. The Packwood Collection comprises about 2000 boxes of material spanning the Senator’s 26-year career representing the State of Oregon (1969-1995). These papers join seven other Congressional collections of Oregon delegates currently housed at the Willamette University Archives.

Senator Packwood, a Republican, was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1969, defeating Senator Wayne Morse and serving alongside Senator Mark O. Hatfield during his tenure representing Oregon. As a legislator Packwood championed issues including women’s rights, environmental conservation, deregulation, and tax reform. As Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee from 1985-1987, Senator Packwood was instrumental in proposing and guiding the passage of the 1986 Tax Reform Act.

The Willamette University Archives is delighted to make portions of this extraordinary collection available to the public upon completion of processing. Recently hired Political Papers Archivist Paul Meuse began processing in September of this year.

- Paul Meuse