



Congressional Papers Section

NEWSLETTER

Society of American Archivists

Summer 2018 Edition

Message from the Chair

By Debbie Davendonis

Greetings, colleagues!

I know we're all looking forward to Archives*Records 2018 at the Marriott Wardman Park, August 12-18. If you haven't registered yet, don't worry—there's still time. The annual meeting is a great opportunity to discover new ideas, tools, and resources. The pre-conference workshops are also a good opportunity for professional development. Most importantly, the annual meeting offers great opportunities to promote your institution and network with colleagues!

This year's CPS pre-conference will be held on Wednesday, August 15th at the Capitol Visitors Center from 8:30 to 1:30. We'll hear from the Electronic Records Committee about their efforts to create a framework for preserving CSS/CMS data. The Diversity Task Force will hold a panel exploring the theme of archival silences—who are the missing people in political, governmental, and congressional records? The panelists will also interrogate the traditional narratives deployed through archival instruction, exhibits, and description, particularly the notions of representation, democratic governance, and objectivity, and why it is important to expose these silences in the archival record of Congress. This year's program will also feature a special, hands-on Advocacy on the Hill session. Read more about it in the newsletter!

Stay tuned for more CPS Day details, and try to stay cool, everyone!

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Advocacy on the Hill Day

By Danielle Emerling

The Congressional Papers Section will convene at the Capitol Visitors Center on August 15 during the SAA annual meeting, and we are taking advantage of our time on the Hill by hosting an afternoon of advocacy. Following a panel session about effective communication with congressional offices, we will visit the offices of our congressional delegations.

This will be a great opportunity for CPS members to underscore the importance of preserving congressional records ahead of the November midterm elections. All 435 seats in the House of Representatives and 33 Senate seats are up for election. Additionally, more than 40 members have announced retirements! It is a crucial time for archivists to establish relationships with congressional offices or to check-in with existing connections.

In addition to the panel, all CPS Day attendees will receive a booklet with handy information and tips for engaging congressional offices. Even if this is your first time meeting with a

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Advocacy, cont.

congressional office, you'll have great resources (and support) for making the most of your time!

To prepare for the CPS Advocacy on the Hill, you may wish to:

- contact the office(s) ahead of time and make an appointment.
- talk to your director, dean, etc., about the advocacy event.
- pack business cards and/or literature about your repository.

bring examples of finding aids, documentation on exhibitions, or sample teaching materials to show offices what your repository does with collections.

At the end of the day, we'll reconvene at Hawk 'n' Dove for a debriefing session and happy hour. (Hawk 'n' Dove Restaurant, 329 Pennsylvania Ave. SE, Washington, DC, 20003, <http://hawknidovethehill.com>)

2018 ACSC Meeting Recap

By Karen Paul

The Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics hosted the 2018 annual meeting on the theme, *New Frontiers of Engagement*. Former Archivist of the United States John Carlin reflected on his years as head of the National Archives where he stressed the need to tell the story of why records are important- for history, transparency, and for benefits. Panels investigated new ways to utilize student workers, volunteers, and interns; how to integrate congressional collections into public programming; ways to focus on creating a memorable experience for youth civic leadership programs; and even engaging preschoolers with an Easter Egg "Roll with Dole" event. Senator Nancy Kassebaum Baker was interviewed by

Senate Historian Betty Koed to recount her time in the Senate and the importance of preserving one's record of service. A journalist, historian and political scientist discussed their goal of re-researching the big stories to discover the full story and more nuanced explanations. They stressed the importance of learning digital resources, and singled out news clippings, speeches, press releases, leadership and staff memos, communications between members, legislative strategy memos, time lines and members schedules as having particular documentary value. They noted the need to be able to identify the cast of characters and advocated staff charts. A panel on exhibits urged archivists to "turn the mirror around" and show how Congress works by telling the stories of people Congress worked with. This was impressively illustrated through an in-depth look at the Dole Center's League of Wives project, a major exhibit and forthcoming book by Heath Hardage Lee that tells the story of the military wives who founded the organization that would later become the National League of POW/MIA Families. A final panel explored social media as a new resource by asking how researchers are studying the new fragmented communication platforms, how is it changing political rhetoric, how do narratives unfold to impact political movements, and the need to expand what constitutes political speech. Throughout the meeting ACSC members mingled with and heard from members of the Dole Institute Student Advisory Board, a group of KU students united by common interests in community service, government, and politics who participate in discussions and events on all topics that intersect politics. Highlighted was their work with the Dole Institute staff to plan events and bring speakers. Their participation in the conference lent an immediacy and relevancy to the proceedings of the 2018 ACSC annual meeting.

2018 CPS Steering Committee Election

The Congressional Papers Section has two candidates for the steering committee and one for the office of vice-chair in the upcoming elections. Their biographical information and candidate statements can be found below, and are also reproduced online at: <https://www2.archivists.org/groups/congressional-papers-section/cps-vice-chair-and-steering-committee-candidates-2018>

Candidate for Vice-Chair

Nathan Gerth

Digital Archivist

University Of Nevada, Reno

Ph.D. (History), University of Notre Dame

M.A. (Russian East European and Eurasian Studies), University of Kansas

B.A. (Russian Studies), Luther College

Brief Biography:

Nathan Gerth is the digital archivist for the University of Nevada, Reno Libraries (UNR). He joined the Libraries' faculty in February 2018. In this role, he manages UNR's infrastructure for preserving digitized resources and processing born digital materials, including the six million digital objects in the collection of Senator Harry Reid. Prior to UNR, he acted as Assistant Curator and Archivist at the Carl Albert Congressional Research and Studies Center, where he managed sixty-one congressional collections and twenty associated political collections. Beyond working at the Carl Albert Center, he also served as Assistant Professor in the University of Oklahoma's School of Library and Information Studies, where he applied his technical and teaching skills to creating courses on digital curation and archives management. He is an active member of the congressional papers community, serving as a member of the CPS Steering Committee, the Association of Centers for the Study of Congress (ACSC) Executive Board, and the ACSC CSS Data Task Force.

Experience with Congressional Papers:

I first entered the field of congressional papers in 2014, when I accepted a position as archivist at the Carl Albert Center. At the Center, I led or planned the processing projects for four congressional collections, including the papers of Representative Mike Synar and Senator David Boren. Furthermore, I spearheaded several outreach programs at OU designed around the use of congressional papers for civic engagement, including the Local Digital History Lab (water.cacexplore.org), which focused attention on the use of congressional collections to highlight policy issues related to the environment. At the University of Oklahoma, I co-founded and acted as system administrator for ARC, a collaborative ArchivesSpace instance that houses archival descriptions from five repositories across campus, including the largest political advertising archive in the United States. At the University Of Nevada, Reno, I am part of the processing team that sets the standards and procedures for arranging and describing Senator Reid's collection.

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2018 CPS Steering Committee Election

Nathan Gerth, cont.

What do you bring to the CPS Steering Committee?

I bring commitment, creativity, and a collaborative spirit to the committee. Over the past four years, I have committed myself to maintaining a strong service record in the congressional papers community. I have devoted time to leadership positions in CPS and ACSC, including the CPS Steering Committee and the ACSC Executive Committee. Beyond that leadership experience, I have also actively participated in collaborative and creative initiatives that involve coordinating work across institutional boundaries, including the ACSC CSS Data Task Force and 2018 CPS Advocacy Day. I believe that my enthusiastic service, along with my experience in a variety of repositories, will help me foster teamwork and new initiatives on the CPS Steering Committee.

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

The field of congressional papers is at an important turning point. The growth of civic awareness has boosted interest in collections to new heights. At the same time, the number and technical complexity of collections is growing, due, in no small part, to the significant number of retirements from Congress during the current term. Finally, a new generation of practitioners are entering the field as the archivists who have defined the field for many years also begin to retire. Over the next three to five years, I would like to see CPS address the challenges that will emerge as a result of these developments. As someone who has benefited significantly from the guidance offered by my fellow archivists, I see real value in mentoring the next generation of practitioners as they confront the challenges that come with processing, promoting, and preserving congressional papers. The creation of a modest mentorship program within the organization could go a long way to bolstering the comradery and collaborative spirit that has defined our community. Taking these steps would also help CPS solidify its important accomplishments in the areas of diversity, donor education, and electronic records by fostering the growth of a new generation of leaders.

Candidates for Steering Committee

Leigh McWhite, Ph.D.

Political Papers Archivist & Associate Professor
Modern Political Archives, University of Mississippi

Ph.D. in History, University of Mississippi, 2002
M.A. in History, University of Mississippi, 1994
B.A. in International Studies and Economics,
1990

Brief Biography:

I obtained a part-time job in the Archives and Special Collections at the University of Mississippi during graduate school. My very first week, I discovered an Order of Cincinnatus

Brandon T. Pieczko

Processing and Digital Archivist
Richard B. Russell Library for Political Research
and Studies
University of Georgia

MSLIS, University of Illinois at Urbana-
Champaign
MA (East Asian Languages and Cultures), Uni-
versity of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
BA (Religion and Classical Studies), University
of Evansville
Digital Archives Specialist Certification, Society
of American Archivists (2012)

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2018 CPS Steering Committee Election

Leigh McWhite, cont.

membership certificate signed by George Washington, and I have been hooked on working with original historical material ever since! While completing my dissertation, I became a full-time staff member of Special Collections in 2000. Three years later, the head of the department asked me to serve as interim head of a newly formed unit of political collections, including a transfer of 8,000 unprocessed congressional and judicial papers from the law school. A cultural historian, I reluctantly agreed and began work on the papers of U.S. Senator James O. Eastland. The scale and scope of content in congressional collections applicable to a wide array of research efforts across historical fields and academic disciplines convinced me to apply for the permanent faculty post as political papers archivist in 2005.

Experience with Congressional Papers:

I have worked with congressional papers in the Modern Political Archives at the University of Mississippi since 2004. As the only archivist in this unit, I am responsible for processing collections, responding to reference inquiries, conducting archival instruction, and promoting the holdings through a variety of outreach efforts including exhibitions and programming.

What do you bring to the CPS Steering Committee?

Having relied heavily upon the experience, resources, and comradery offered by CPS in the past, I am a dedicated member interested in preserving the vitality of a group that has proved significant in my own professional growth. I previously served on the CPS Steering Committee in 2008-2010; co-chaired the Electronic Records Task Force/Committee in 2009-2012; held office as Vice-Chair (2011-2012), Chair (2012-

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Brando Pieczko, cont.

Brief Biography:

Brandon Pieczko is the Processing and Digital Archivist at the Richard B. Russell Library for Political Research and Studies (University of Georgia Libraries) where he is responsible for arranging and describing Congressional papers and other modern political collections, as well as managing the Russell Library's digital archives program. Prior to joining the Russell Library in 2017, he worked as the Digital Archivist for Manuscript Collections at Ball State University (2014-2017) and as the Processing Archivist at the State Archives of the South Dakota State Historical Society (2012-2014). Brandon received a Master of Science in Library and Information Science (MSLIS) and a Master of Arts degree in East Asian Languages and Cultures from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and a BA in Religion and Classical Studies from the University of Evansville. He has also earned a Digital Archives Specialist (DAS) certification from the Society of American Archivists. He is an active member of the Society of American Archivists, Midwest Archives Conference (*Archival Issues* Editorial Board member), Society of Georgia Archivists, and the Association of Centers for the Study of Congress (Constituent Data Task Force and Scholarships and Awards Committee member). Previously, Brandon served as secretary and webmaster for the Society of Indiana Archivists and as president of the Delaware County (Ind.) Historical Society.

Experience with Congressional Papers:

As the Processing and Digital Archivist at the Richard B. Russell Library for Political Research and Studies, I am responsible for accessioning, arranging, describing, preserving, and providing access to personal papers and records collected

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2018 CPS Steering Committee Election

Leigh McWhite, cont.

2013) and Past-Chair (2013-2014); and most recently served as co-chair of the Strategic Planning Task Force (2016-2017).

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

One of the key performance indicators in our strategic plan is for CPS to publish (online or in the newsletter) case studies or best practices for advocacy and outreach efforts. Many of our members have developed public relations and programming to promote their political collections. Some of these endeavors are small and simple while others may require large amounts of time and energy. Sharing ideas and lessons learned will inspire other members and improve the rate of successful outcomes.

Brandon Pieckzo, cont.

by the library, including those donated by members of Congress representing the state of Georgia. I am also the primary point of contact for the transfer of born-digital records from Congressional offices to the Russell Library. As the Russell Library's representative on the University of Georgia Libraries' Digital Curation Working Group, I am also responsible for ensuring that born-digital records received from Congressional offices and other donors are properly curated and ingested into the University Libraries' digital preservation repository for long-term storage. Prior to joining the Russell Library in 2017, I worked as the Digital Archivist for Manuscript Collections at Ball State University where my duties included overseeing researcher access to the papers of Congressman Philip R. Sharp (Indiana 2nd/10th District).

What do you think you would bring to the CPS Steering Committee?

If elected to the CPS Steering Committee, I would bring six years of professional archives experience working at a variety of different repositories including a state government archives, mid-size university, and a large research university (all of which are home to Congressional papers). During those six years, I have been involved in all aspects of archival practice from physical processing, digitization, and digital preservation, to collection development, exhibit creation, instruction, and outreach. I have also been actively involved with and held leadership positions in several different professional organizations including ACSC (Scholarships and Awards Committee and Constituent Data Task Force member), the Midwest Archives Conference (*Archival Issues* Editorial Board member), and the Society of Indiana Archivists (served as secretary and webmaster and twice as a member of the Annual Meeting Planning Committee). Though I am fairly new to the Congressional papers world, I would also bring a great deal of enthusiasm for the importance of ensuring that the archival materials donated by members of Congress are actively preserved and made accessible to the public in innovative ways that meet the expectations of researchers accustomed to pursuing their scholarship and learning in a digital service environment.

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2018 CPS Steering Committee Election

Brandon Pieckzo, cont.

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

In the next 3-5 years I would like to see CPS focus on promoting efforts to making Congressional archives more relevant to archivists and researchers operating outside of the institutions known for being well-established centers for the study of Congress. Such efforts would include performing outreach to archival repositories that hold only a small number of Congressional collections and/or may be unsure of the best way to process and provide access to those collections. Such organizations might benefit from guidance from professionals (through CPS) who are more familiar with best practices for working with Congressional papers, particularly when it comes to preserving and providing efficient access to digital records including constituent correspondence maintained in proprietary formats. I would also like to see CPS act as a platform for promoting the importance and value of Congressional papers to researchers and scholars working in fields outside of those we have long considered our allies (i.e. not just history and political science). I would also like to see CPS continue to make important contributions to the broader archival profession by encouraging its members to share their stories, tools, policies, documentation, and other resources that might be useful to archivists and curators working in other subfields (e.g. following the Electronic Records Committee's example of providing online modules for institutions managing Congressional electronic records within their repositories). Finally, I would like CPS to focus on increasing the diversity of its membership and leadership in terms of race, ethnicity, geographic location, and other representational categories by encouraging underrepresented individuals and institutions to become more involved in the organization.

Institutional Updates

Baylor University

Using resources from the Baylor Collections of Political Materials, located here in the Poage Library, we've aggregated materials related to Women's Rights, League of Women Voters, Equal Rights Amendment, Spouses of Politicians and Women in the Military as part of the Women's Archive Collection Project website [baylor.edu/genderstudies/womenscollections] In celebration of Women's History Month, the website was launched and the libraries sponsored, "Sharing Her Story", a panel that included Mattie Mae McKee, Congressional staffer from 1968-1989. She shared her experiences from working alongside Texas Representatives O.C. Fisher, W. R. Poage, and Marvin Leath, as well as her time working for Senators John Tower (TX-D) and John Warner (VA-R). At the end of her presentation, Ms. McKee announced that she is donating her papers to Poage, making her papers our first women's collection!

Poage Library sponsored the League of Women Voters-Waco candidate forum. The event -- a twist on speed-dating -- included a round-robin question-and-answer session in an intimate setting of 8-10 people per table. Candidates for District Attorney, County Judge, and 2 County Commissioners were present to meet with the 70 area citizens that attended.

Since September Poage Library has participated in NARA's #ArchivesHashtagParty. We have highlighted Rep. Alan Steelman's baseball cards (#ArchivesGameNight); recipes from the Congressional Cookbooks (#ArchivesPotluck); and photos of Congressional spouses (#ArchivesAwesomeWomen). Join us on Instagram @poage_library

In staff news, Director Debbie Davendonis traveled to her alma mater, Beloit College, to speak on a panel for 2018 Advising Practicum both in the History Department and Beloit College Archives. She also served as a member of the Baylor Public Deliberation Initiative (PDI) Advisory Board. This April, Baylor PDI was awarded Baylor's Division of Student Life 2018 Team Award for their work increasing civic skills and literacy around campus. Collections Services Archivist Mary Goolsby completed all the requirements to become a Digital Archives Specialist (DAS).

- Mary Goolsby



Mattie Mae McKee at "Sharing Her Story"



Debbie Davendonis at the League of Women Voters candidate forum

Institutional Updates

University of Kansas

From Senator Bob Dole receiving the Congressional Gold Medal to our annual Easter Egg Roll and hosting the annual meeting of the Association of Centers for the Study of Congress, it has been a busy and rewarding spring semester at the Dole Archives.

Senator Bob Dole received the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian honor bestowed by the U.S. Congress, in a ceremony in the Capitol Rotunda on January 17, 2018. In honor of the Senator’s award, the Dole Archives produced a small exhibit featuring his archival documents that highlighted career milestones and provided photos and video, which Alston & Bird displayed following the ceremony at a reception in his honor. The display, with a reproduction of the Congressional Gold Medal, is now on exhibit at the Dole Institute of Politics.



One exhibit case at the Alston & Bird reception following Dole’s Congressional Gold Medal ceremony



The League of Wives sign outside the Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum on opening day

The original exhibit, “The League of Wives: Vietnam’s POW/MIA Advocates and Allies,” closed at the Dole Institute of Politics on December 31, 2017. The exhibit, developed by the Dole Archives with 2017 Curatorial Fellow Heath Hardage Lee, traveled to the Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum (CSPM), where it opened the evening of March 23, 2018, with a large and lively community reception honoring the project’s funders, Harlan and Alice Ann Ochs of Colorado Springs. CSPM Curator Leah Witherow integrated stories and artifacts featuring wives and advocates in the

Colorado Springs community. Opening weekend included a talk by Heath Hardage Lee and a panel of wives and advocates moderated by Dole Institute Assistant Director and Senior Archivist Audrey Coleman. The exhibit will be on display at the CSPM until December 28, 2018. It will open at the Virginia Museum of History and Culture in March 2019. Lee’s book project, “The League of Wives: The Untold Story of the Women Who Took on the U.S. Government to Bring Their Husbands Home from Vietnam,” is due from St. Martin’s Press in April 2019.

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Institutional Updates

University of Kansas, cont.

The League of Wives project team, including Dole Institute and Dole Archives staff, Kansas Audio-Reader, Curatorial Fellow Heath Hardage Lee, filmmaker Kristine Bartley, and assistant curator Minda Stockdale, was nominated for University of Kansas Team of the Year this spring.

We hosted three researchers on grants recently. Dr. Julien Zarifian from the University of Cergy-Pontoise in France visited for his project, “Senator Robert J. Dole and Armenians: A Forty-Year Proximity and Engagement.” Author-Journalist Michael Bobelian, selected to be our Archival Fellow for Armenian Advocacy, visited for his project, “Armenian-American Advocacy from Earthquake Relief to Genocide Recognition.” The Armenian Advocacy Fellowship was offered in conjunction with the closing year of KU’s World War I Commemoration in order to evaluate our collections and develop a forthcoming online module based on Senator Bob Dole’s career advocacy on behalf of Armenia. Our 2017 Dole Archive Research Fellow, Dr. Douglas B. Harris from Loyola University Maryland visited this spring for his project, “Selecting the Senate Leader: Bob Dole’s 1984 Race for Senate Floor Leader and its Consequences for Senate Leadership.”

Scanning of The Robert J. Dole Speeches Collection, 1958-1996, finished late last year and the files added to the finding aid early this year. The collection consists of speeches, talking points, briefing materials, invitations, and travel files from Dole’s time as the Russell County Attorney, a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, and as a U.S. Senator and Republican Leader. The 2,962 files are full-text searchable at the link above.

The third annual Easter Egg Roll with Dole on March 31, 2018, was another great success! An estimated 750 attendees – 350 of them being young students – had a grand time engaging in egg hunts, egg rolls, crafts, storytime, games, and playing with live bunnies. The event also included a “Golden Rules” checklist to encourage learning civic actions as attendees visited all of the activities. Join us next year on April 20 for this entertaining tradition styled after the White House Egg Roll!



Families participating in the Easter Egg Roll with Dole

In April the Dole Archives also awarded the Robert J. Dole Congressional History Prize at the Kansas History Day state contest. This year’s first-place award was presented to Michael Navarro and Brittney Wilson for their Senior Group Exhibit, “The Meat Inspection Act of 1906: Canning the Pests of the American Dinner Table.” The pair attend Washburn Rural High School in Topeka. Second place went to the Junior Group Website by Connor Buchanan, Jack Massey, and Brayden Stewart titled, “Tonkin Gulf Resolution: Escalating the Conflict.” They attend Marlatt Elementary in Manhattan. Henry Horan won third place for his Junior Indi-

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Institutional Updates

University of Kansas, cont.

vidual Website, “Alaska Land Controversy and ANILCA.” He attends Bishop Seabury Academy in Lawrence. History Day projects that focus on the history of Congress, a piece of legislation, or use material from the Dole Archives are eligible for the cash prizes.

The Dole Institute welcomed members of the Association of Centers for the Study of Congress (ACSC) for their annual meeting April 25-27, 2018. A pre-conference workshop on audience engagement led by Museum Hack and co-sponsored by the Dole Institute, ACSC, and Kansas Museums Association took place on Wednesday morning. Highlights of the conference include the keynote, an interview with former Kansas Governor and Archivist of the United States John Carlin, and the former members panel, a conversation between former U.S. Senator Nancy Kassebaum Baker and Senate Historian Betty Koed. Meeting attendees also heard about Dole Institute public programming, exhibits, educational outreach, and got to have dinner with members of our Student Advisory Board. We enjoyed hosting everyone so much!

- Sarah D’Antonio Gard



At ACSC, Dole Institute Director Bill Lacy interviews members of the Dole Institute Student Advisory Board



In the ACSC Former Members Panel, U.S. Senator Nancy Kassebaum Baker discusses her time in office Senate Historian Betty Koed



Former Archivist of the United States John Carlin, interviewed by Dole Institute Assistant Director and Senior Archivist Audrey Coleman, shares recollections from his

Institutional Updates

University of North Carolina at Greensboro

In August 2017, Martha Blakeney Hodges Special Collections and University Archives at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG) finished a four-year processing project of the Congressman J. Howard Coble Papers.

Howard Coble served as the 6th Congressional representative from North Carolina for 30 years. His papers, dating from 1985-

2015, contain materials that document the political landscape of the Piedmont region. Having such a long span of records from one political representative gives researchers the opportunity to see change over time. Archivists from UNCG worked with the Congressman, his staff, and family to transfer records to the archive both during and after Coble's passing in 2015. Balancing donor relations, privacy, and confidentiality concerns was an integral part of providing access to this collection.



Howard Coble speaking at a rally on tobacco tax.

Having reached a critical mass of boxes in the Rayburn House Office Building, Congressman Coble promised his papers to UNCG in August 2007. Coble's Chief of Staff, Ed McDonald, is quoted as saying, "We've been contacted by the fire marshal because there is so much. We have shuffled things around a bit, but at one point, they reached the ceiling." The first shipment of boxes arrived that fall, including over 200 boxes of constituent correspondence from 1986-2006. The University Libraries received two subsequent shipments in 2013 and 2015, with one final surprise addition arriving in 2016, a year after the Congressman's death.

The collection posed a unique challenge for the archive, which had never housed a Congressional papers collection of this size and scope. The sheer magnitude of the collection, encompassing over 350 boxes (approximately 525 linear feet), coupled with the often sensitive nature of the materials, made processing a lengthy process. The majority of the collection was composed of constituent correspondence, but also included audiovisual materials, newspaper clippings, press releases, scheduling files, issue files, campaign materials, legislative materials, and personal materials.

Jennifer Motszko, manuscripts archivist at UNCG, oversaw the processing of Coble's papers from its initial accession. Motszko supervised Patrick Dollar, processing archivist, for the final two years of the processing project. Motszko worked closely with Coble to ensure that the archive was meeting his expectations for treatment of his collection. While many of the same issues surrounding processing Coble's collections already existed, the issues of privacy, Coble's legacy and image, and access became even more complicated after his death.

Throughout processing, Dollar and Motszko worked to balance community interests, donor relation-

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Institutional Updates

UNC Greensboro, cont.

ships, privacy concerns, and accessibility of the collection. This process was influenced by the archivists' engagement with a variety of different communities – including Howard Coble's family members, community members who felt a strong personal or political attachment to Coble, and community businesses or organizations who also felt a strong connection to Coble. Each of these groups had different interests and desires from the collection.



A processed box of constituent correspondence.

UNCG archivists were faced with challenging questions about privacy, confidentiality, and ethics while processing and describing the collection. Constituent correspondence often contained highly sensitive or protected personal, medical, or legal information. Constituents seemed to expect a certain level of third-person privacy, despite Congressional correspondence being a public record. Additionally, the collection included some inflammatory correspondence inciting violence or focused hate speech against Coble or other individuals. Often surrounding hot-button political issues, this violent rhetoric also seemed to be written with an assumption of privacy. Constituents' most radical

ideas were often on display when writing to their Congressman and may not always put them in the most positive light.

Motszko and Dollar struck a balance by removing some materials during processing – including medical records, lengthy court transcripts, or other sensitive information that did not add to the research value of the collection. The original correspondence soliciting help from Coble was retained. Of the original 350+ boxes, only 193 boxes were retained.

In addition to privacy concerns relating to Coble and his constituents, Dollar and Motszko also faced access concerns. How would these sensitive materials be made available to researchers? After processing, they had to decide how best to describe the materials and provide access to them, both online through the finding aid, and in person. All correspondence was treated equally and organized chronologically, in an effort to reduce any curatorial or personal bias from coloring the processing. While the onus remains on the researcher to discover the materials, nothing controversial or inflammatory was removed from the collection.

Again, UNCG archivists retained all sensitive personal correspondence in the collection. Any sensitive correspondence was organized chronologically. No special attention was drawn to sensitive correspondence in the finding aid. Although this was a delicate decision, UNCG archivists strove to balance

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Institutional Updates

UNC Greensboro, cont.

archival principles with maintaining positive relationships with donors and Coble's family. Greensboro organizations and individuals felt a strong attachment to Coble's image, which was considered during processing but ultimately did not alter the processing plan.

Controversial materials, sometimes expressing violence towards Coble or particularly unpleasant speech surrounding hot-button political issues, were retained. Motszko and Dollar made the conscious effort not to segregate these materials or draw particular attention to them in the finding aid. Motszko and Dollar took a balanced approach when processing Congressman J. Howard Coble's papers - juggling archival standards, privacy and access concerns, and multiple interested constituent groups. Archivists balanced these concerns with a desire to provide access to the collection in a meaningful way.

UNCG has made great strides through the experience of processing Coble's papers, striving to push the boundaries for an archive not normally used to working with Congressional records. With the recent experience processing Coble's collection, UNCG now has an example for processing Congressional papers.

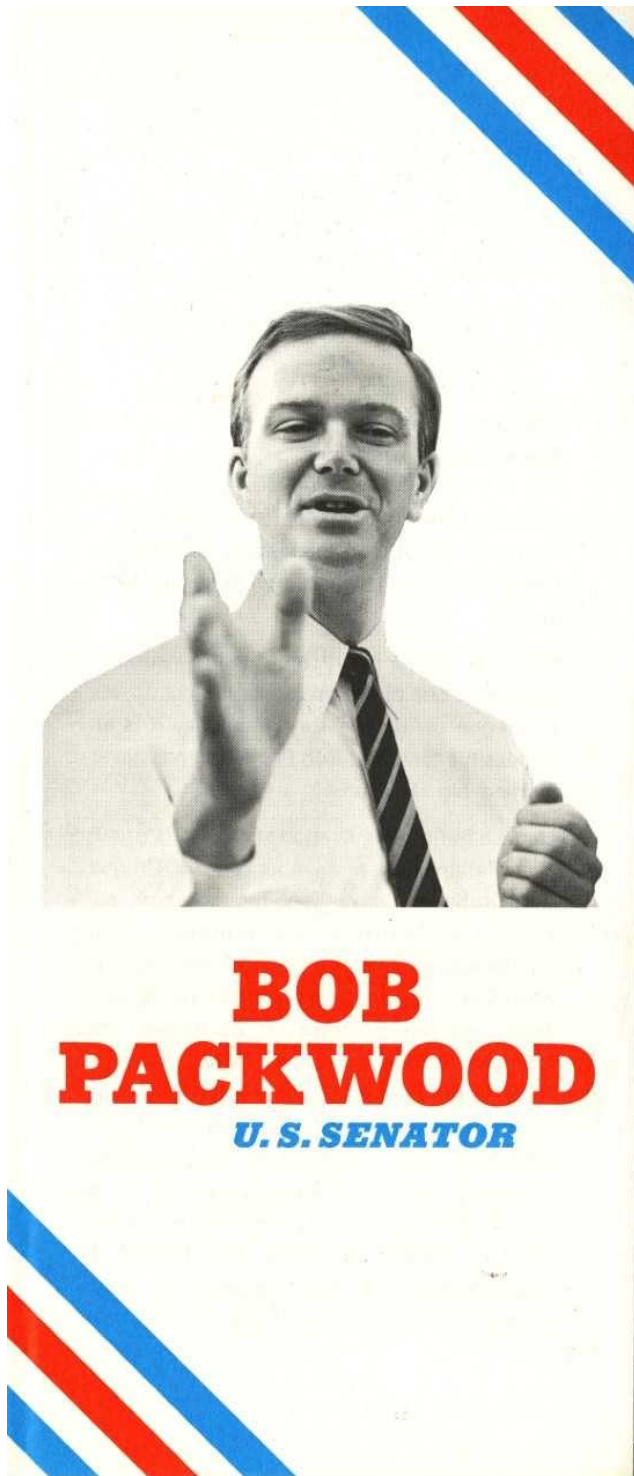
This collection provides a unique glimpse into North Carolina and United States politics for students, faculty, and researchers. Coble's papers reflect his personal journey through early government work and a 30-year career in the U.S. House of Representatives, but also the shifts in the public's political concerns, opinions, and votes.

- Jennifer Motszko and Patrick Dollar



Howard Coble (R) and Ronald Reagan (L).

Institutional Updates



Willamette University

The Willamette University Archives is pleased to announce the opening of the Legislative Series of the Robert W. “Bob” Packwood Papers. The Legislative Papers comprise 572 linear feet of material, documenting Senator Packwood’s legislative activity as a U.S. Senator from Oregon (1969 – 1995). The material in this series reflects Packwood’s long-term interests in environmental/timber issues, women’s rights, tax reform, industry deregulation, welfare reform, and Middle East foreign policy. In addition, a detailed record of Packwood’s leadership roles in the U.S. Senate provides an inside look at institutional and cultural change in the U.S. Congress and American politics over time.

Packwood’s early to mid-career legislative interests included the championing of successful environmental conservation efforts in Oregon. His environmental achievements culminated in the passage of legislation to preserve Cascade Head (1973), Hells Canyon (1975), French Pete (1978) and the Columbia Gorge (1985) in Oregon. These legislative efforts, in addition to Packwood’s involvement in legislation during Oregon’s “timber wars” of the late 1980’s/early 1990’s, are reflected in a wealth of primary source documents.

Given Packwood’s early support for women’s and civil rights legislation, this series details both an emerging feminist movement as well as an evolving social conservative movement among Congressional Republicans beginning in the 1970’s. Memos, bills, correspondence, reports, and related sources provide a detailed record of numerous legislative battles over abortion, welfare, tax, education, foreign policy, gun control, and civil rights policies spanning from the late 1960’s through the mid 1990’s.

During the Presidency of Ronald Reagan, Pack-

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Institutional Updates

Willamette University, cont.

wood chaired both the Commerce Committee (1981-1985) and Finance Committee (1985-1987). As a member and chair of the Commerce Committee, Packwood successfully pushed legislation to deregulate several industries, including airline, trucking, railroad, and telecommunications. As chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, he was instrumental in proposing and guiding a bi-partisan effort to pass the 1986 Tax Reform Act. An in-depth record of Packwood's involvement in these far-reaching commerce and finance policy achievements can be found in this legislative series.

The Packwood Legislative Series is divided into three parts: Congressional Sessions (91st – 93rd Congresses, 1969-1974), Staff Files, and Subject Files. Full Access to the Finding Aid can be found on Archives West: <http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv43429>

Willamette University has also recently opened the Dorchester Conference Records of the Packwood Papers. The Dorchester Conference was first organized in 1965 by then-State Representative Robert Packwood. While the format and purpose of the conference has shifted over time, in its early years Dorchester was a forum for recruiting and galvanizing “socially moderate” Republicans to push the Oregon State Republican Party in a more liberal direction. The Dorchester Conference is the oldest annual political conference in the United States and continues to be held in Oregon each spring.

Forthcoming from Willamette University will be the opening of the Campaign and Press Series of the Robert W. “Bob” Packwood Papers.

- Paul Meuse

West Virginia University

The United States Congress is the branch of the federal government closest to the people, where representatives and their constituents most directly engage over the issues of the day. Yet many Americans view Congress with a mix of frustration, confusion, and disapproval.

To promote a better understanding of Congress, the [West Virginia and Regional History Center at WVU Libraries](#) opened an exhibit, “The People’s Branch: Exploring the U.S. Congress with Archives,” on April 2. It will remain on display through December 2018.

“The People’s Branch” uses archival materials to explore the basic functions of Congress and the importance of the institution in American democracy. It highlights the representative responsibilities of the body and the interactions between politicians and constituents. It encourages visitors to consider how Congress has evolved over time and how it continues to shape politics and public policy.

“With the upcoming 2018 midterm elections, the exhibit offers a chance to look at the legislative branch broadly and to reflect on how the institution has remained consistent, and changed, over time” said Danielle Emerling, WVRHC assistant curator and congressional and political papers archivist.

In curating the exhibit, Emerling used items from a number of the WVRHC’s modern congressional collections, including the papers of Senators Jay Rockefeller, Harley Kilgore, and Matthew

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Institutional Updates

West Virginia University, cont.

Mansfield Neely, and Congressmen Nick Rahall, Harley O. Staggers, and Arch Moore.

To encourage both reflection and action, the exhibit partnered with THE QUESTION creator Dr. Sharon Ryan, Professor of Philosophy at WVU, to engage visitors in thinking about the duties of representatives and citizens in a representative democracy. Additionally, in early April the League of Women Voters of Morgantown-Monongalia County set up a voter registration table in the lobby of the Downtown Campus Library.

This exhibition opened during [Congress Week](#), recognized annually during the first week of April by the Association of Centers for the Study of Congress (ACSC) to promote a better public understanding of the legislative branch. The WVU Libraries is an institutional member of ACSC.

- Danielle Emerling

University of Georgia

The Richard B. Russell Library at the University of Georgia is pleased to announce four recent hires. Brandon Pieczko is the Russell Library's Processing and Digital Archivist where he arranges and describes congressional and modern political collections as well as the library's growing digital archives program. Prior to joining the Russell in 2017, he worked as the Digital Archivist for Manuscript Collections at Ball State University and as the Processing Archivist at the State Archives of the South Dakota State Historical Society. Iva Dimitrova is the Russell Library's new Oral History Coordinator. Iva processes and archives oral history interviews and videography, audio engineering, and interviewing support for oral history projects and partnerships. Iva also participates in the library's out-

reach efforts to document the history of underrepresented and marginalized communities in Athens and across Georgia. Robert Lay joined the Russell Library in 2018 as the Head of Arrangement and Description. He worked previously at the University of North Texas's Special Collections Department, the Dole Institute of Politics at Kansas University, and the Carl Albert Congressional Research and Studies Center in Norman, Oklahoma. Ashton Ellett is the Russell Library's new Politics and Public Policy Archivist. Ashton earned his doctorate in history from the University of Georgia in 2017. He currently directs the library's Two-Party Georgia Oral History Project and lends administrative and research support on various ongoing projects.

The Russell Library recently acquired two congressional collections. Tom Price served four terms in the Georgia State Senate before winning election from Georgia's 6th District in 2004. Price served as Chairman of the House Republican Policy Committee, Republican Study Committee, and Chairman of the powerful House Budget Com-



Secretary Tom Price

mittee at various points during his career. The collection spans his six terms in Congress and highlights Price's interest in taxation, healthcare, and budget policy. The Russell Library has also acquired the papers of Congressman Earl Leroy (Buddy) Carter. This collection charts Carter's rise from Pooler City Council to the Georgia General Assembly and into his nas-

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Institutional Updates

University of Georgia, cont.

cent congressional career representing coastal Georgia's 1st District. Carter was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 2014, and he serves on the Committee on Energy and Commerce.



Congressman Buddy Carter

Two additional congressional collections are now processed and opened for research at the Russell Library. Alexander S. Clay spent a decade in the Georgia General Assembly before becoming a United States senator in 1897. Clay served in that capacity until his death in 1910. The Clay papers contain constituent correspondence, congressional publications, and selections from his personal library. George W. (Buddy) Darden served a single term in the Georgia House of Representatives prior to winning a special election in 1983 to succeed the late U.S. Representative Larry McDonald. In Congress, Darden sat on a number of committees including the House Armed Services, Ethics, and Appropriations. A centrist Democrat, Darden proved an especially fierce proponent of military spending throughout his career. He lost reelection in 1994, and his 2002 congressional campaign came up short in the Democratic primary. The collection spans Darden's House career and includes artifacts related to his personal life.

Julian Zelizer, Princeton University's Malcolm Stevenson Forbes, Class of 1941, Professor of History and Public Affairs, headlined the Russell Library's Civic Knowledge, Civic Power programming in early April. Dr. Zelizer delivered a timely lecture on "Politics in the Age of Partisan

Warfare" and participated in a Q&A session with political science students. The University of Georgia's School of Public and International Affairs and Department of History partnered with the Russell Library to host this event, which complemented several "lunch-and-learn" programs dedicated to increasing civic awareness on campus and in the community. The series was inspired by the ACSC's annual Congress Week Initiative.

On November 1, 2017, the Russell Library partnered with the UGA Institute on Human Development and Disability and the Georgia Disability History Alliance to host the Georgia Disability History Symposium. The symposium, titled "Urgency of the Moment: Lessons from the Past, New Possibilities for the Future," highlighted Georgia's disability history through lessons learned from the past and advocacy opportunities for the future and featured several speakers including noted disability rights advocates and educators Dr. Beth Mount and John O'Brien. In addition to the speakers and group discussions, the symposium also featured an exhibit of recently acquired documents, photographs, and memorabilia from the Georgia Disability History Archive, which seeks to document and preserve the vital and transformative work undertaken by disability activists, advocates, organizations, and persons with disabilities over the past 100+ years in the state of Georgia. The 2017 symposium can be viewed online at <https://bit.ly/2Mme0le>. For additional information on the Georgia Disability History Archive, visit <https://bit.ly/2t15e32>.

- Ashton Ellett and Brandon Pieczko