



Congressional Papers Section

NEWSLETTER

Society of American Archivists

Winter 2017 Edition

Message from the Chair

By Debbie Davendonis-Todd

Season's Greetings, CPS Colleagues!

Welcome to the Winter 2017 Newsletter. Per usual, those among our ranks continue to process, preserve, and promote congressional and related collections across the country with great success and fanfare. For example, constituent mail from the Gore Center at Middle Tennessee State was a New York Times feature! I know you will enjoy learning the story behind the story and how that article came to fruition. Truly I never tire of reading the good work being done and scanning details for fresh ideas and possible collaborations.

What is unusual, or dare I say, shocking, is news of Herb Hartsook's retirement from South Carolina Political Collections (SCPC). Herb has more than earned a wonderful retirement and I wish him the very best in this new season of life. As a Gamecock and SCPC alum, I hope you, fellow colleagues, will permit me a few moments to process the news and honor this visionary director.

I first met Herb in 2008 and little did I know at the time, my two-year position at SCPC would launch my career. At SCPC, I received an apprentice-like training in the world of archives, special collections, and the fascinating and important field of documenting the American legislative system.

(Continued on page 2)

In This Issue:

Message from the Chair	1-2
CMS/CSS Task Force Report.....	1-2
Tributes to Herb Hartsook.....	3-5
Herb's Tips for Congressional Archives....	6
Meet the New Steering Committee.....	7-9
Institutional Updates	10-15

CMS/CSS Task Force Report

By Danielle Emerling

On November 15, 2017, the Congressional Papers Section CSS/CMS Task Force released a report entitled "Archiving Constituent Services Data of the U.S. Congress," on the state of constituent services systems in use by members of Congress, with a special focus on the obstacles they present to collecting repositories.

Constituent correspondence, or issue mail and casework, has traditionally been maintained as voluminous paper files (and sometimes microfilm), but since the late 1970s, Congress has employed computerized systems. As systems have become proprietary and grown in complexity, the exported data poses real challenges to the archives and libraries seeking to preserve the documentation of this crucial relationship between constituents and their representatives.

(Continued on page 2)

(From the Chair, continued from page 1)

This training gave life to my classroom studies and afforded me valuable hands-on experience in processing, archival description, and outreach. Herb maintained the highest of standards for his staff and students, challenging us daily, and rewarding us with respect and praise and appropriate critiques, when needed. We also had a great deal of fun. Next time we are all together, please ask me about Cheese Day and what it is like to win the Big Cheese. I assure you it is a great honor. I will also never forget Herb's "business" crocs and love for Hawaiian shirts.

As a student at SCPC under Herb's direction I didn't just discover a career — I found my passion. Today, I submit this tribute with title of Director. If I can be half as capable, hard-working, and dedicated as Herb has been in his 38-year career, I will consider it a job well-done. In 8 short years I went from student to director and Herb has been with me every step of the way. I am forever in his debt. I will miss him as a colleague, but I am now proud to call him my friend.

Fellow tributes and Herb's Tips for Congressional Archives can be found in the following pages. Thank you for those who have contributed well-wishes and on behalf of CPS, bravo Herb, what a wonderful career!

Returning briefly to the business at hand, please also be sure to check out the CMS/CSS Task Force teaser and meet our newest Steering Committee members: John Caldwell, Shae Rafferty, Nathan Gerth, Jody Brumage, Dina Mazina, and Robert Lay. I am particularly intrigued learn about their "archival heroes." Also know that we are beginning to investigate content for the 2018 CPS Pre- Conference Day and continue to develop a working relationship with our colleagues on SAA's Committee on Public Policy. Good things are happening!

Warmly,
Debbie

(Task Force Report, continued from page 1)

With this reality in mind, the Congressional Papers Section formed the CSS/CMS Task Force in August 2016 and charged it with investigating the issue and making recommendations. Over the last year, the Task Force has pulled together the most comprehensive report to date about Constituent Services Systems (CSS) in the Senate and Correspondence Management Systems (CMS) in the House of Representatives.

The report provides an overview of how CSS and CMS developed over time, which vendors and systems are currently in use, how systems are deployed in congressional offices, and how data is transferred and exported. It looks at the common obstacles faced by archives and libraries that receive the data and the ways in which archivists have been trying to address these challenges. It also provides a list of academic work that has relied on analog constituent correspondence, while noting the fast potential for research, both inside and outside the academy, with constituent data.

Finally, and most importantly, the report provides guidance for short- and long-term management and preservation in collecting repositories. The short-term guidelines provide instructions for conversations with congressional offices about constituent data, as well as basic born-digital best practices to ensure data is stored safely.

In the long-term, the report recommends a vested advocacy coalition to support management guidelines in member offices, in commercial vendors working with congressional offices, and in collecting repositories, and it calls on the community to develop a technological solution for processing, preserving, and providing access to constituent data that will benefit both large and small repositories.

[The Report](#) is available on the Congressional Papers Section site under the Group Report heading.

Special Feature: Tributes to Herb Hartsook

From the South Carolina Political Collections:

On January 2, 2018, Dorothy Walker succeeds Herb Hartsook as Director of South Carolina Political Collections at the University of South Carolina. Dorothy is well known in CPS and ACSC and has long served as SCPC Associate Director. She first worked at SCPC as a graduate assistant. After graduation, she processed the papers of former U.S. Senator Hiram Fong for the University of Hawaii. She then returned to SCPC where she has earned plaudits for her excellent work both as a congressional archivist and as a member of the USC Libraries faculty. The latter is often a challenge for faculty who earned their degrees in fields other than Library Science. Dorothy's MA is in History.

Hartsook retires after a 38 year career during which he founded SCPC, in 1991. He first joined SAA in 1978 while a student in the then-new archival studies program at the University of Michigan. He has served the Society as chair of CPR, 1992-1994, the Manuscripts Section, 1997-1998, and the Oral History Section, 2003-2004. Hartsook will tell you his favorite SAA job was as editor of the CPR newsletter, 1991-1994. "It was exciting to be in touch with congressional archivists across the country and hearing firsthand about the many exciting projects that were underway." Hartsook was made a Society Fellow in 2016. "SAA has been a terrific boon to me professionally and personally. I will dearly miss the regular interactions I have so enjoyed with my colleagues!"

This past fall, long-time Director of the South Carolina Political Collections Herb Hartsook announced his retirement. The Congressional Papers Section Steering Committee and newsletter editorial staff would like include these testimonials from some of Herb's colleagues to commemorate his career dedicated to preserving the records of Congress.

From L. Rebecca Johnson Melvin

Manuscripts Librarian and Curator, Joseph R. Biden Jr. Senatorial Papers

My warmest regards to South Carolina for this new phase in a modern political papers program that was founded and flourished under the leadership of Herb. I am thankful for the mentoring and collegial support that Herb has given so many of us in the field. I have learned a lot from the South Carolina stories as delivered in conference papers, conversations, articles and blog posts-- topics ranging from oral histories and fund raising and classified documents to building plans and outreach and collection development and more. It was a wonderful experience to visit South Carolina in 2014 and see firsthand the program, facility, and staff at the Hollings Library. Heart felt thank you, Herb! Best wishes, Dorothy and team!

From Karen D. Paul

Senate Archivist, U.S. Senate Historical Office

Rebecca has expressed so beautifully what we all feel who have known and worked with Herb over the years. I only will add that when we are asked for examples of exemplary congressional/public policy programs that USC is always mentioned in the first breath. The Senate Historical Office is deeply grateful for Herb's leadership in pre-

(Continued on page 4)

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serving the records of the South Carolina delegation and for inspiring the work of other congressional centers. Members' staffs who work with Herb frequently voice how fortunate they are to have Herb and his modern political papers program! What could be higher testimony to a successful and much appreciated career that built mutually respectful and beneficial relationships with members of Congress? Thank you from your many fans in the Senate!

From Sheryl Vogt

Director, Richard B. Russell Library

I affirm both Rebecca's and Karen's comments about the forthcoming changes at South Carolina Political Collections. It is reassuring, yet not surprising, that Herb's leadership will transfer to Dorothy's capable hands. Herb is the ideal colleague; he is a good listener, reliable advisor and confident, and passionate enough about political papers to demonstrate the courage of his convictions. As a friend, I enjoy his camaraderie, generosity of spirit, and wicked sense of humor, and recall more than a few great shopping and tour excursions.

On this occasion, I think we should take a few minutes to reflect on the extraordinary impact Herb has had on our work. In addition to the superb model program that he has built at SCPC, another of Herb's exceptional contributions is teaching and mentoring a significant number of student interns and assistants and new professionals to move into careers in archives and take leadership in the field. Among these SCPC graduates and employees are the soon-to-be new director of SCPC, the current Charles Hagel Archivist at University of Nebraska, the Director and Bob Bullock Archivist at Baylor Collections of Political Materials, the associate director of the Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library at the University of Georgia, and former directors of the Robert Dole Archives and Hawaii Political Collections. (5 Congressional Archi-

vists!) There is no better legacy than ensuring the profession's future leaders are prepared.

As a member of CPR, Herb served as a co-team leader on the Documentation of Congress task force that was sponsored by the roundtable and produced the Documentation Strategy under the auspices of the U. S. Senate Historical Office in 1992. He also was at the forefront of CPR's publication project as a member of the initial roundtable task force to draft congressional papers guidelines. The project led to a National Historical Records and Papers Commission funded publication, *Managing Congressional Collections* (SAA, 2008).

SCPC's national reputation was solidified as Herb conceived and developed, with Cynthia Miller, the well-regarded two-day workshop, "The Acquisition, Processing, and Reference of Legislative Collections." This workshop was approved by CPR and presented six times (Indianapolis, D.C., Chicago, Atlanta, Los Angeles, and Tucson) between 1994 and 2003. In addition to the legislative collections workshop, Herb conceived and developed significant workshops on fund raising to support archival collections and donor relations and published "By Fair Means If You Can: A Case Study of Raising Private Monies To Support Archival Programs" in *Archival Issues* (Vol. 25, No. 1, 2001). He later was the principal author for ACSC's first online publication, "Best Practices for Centers for the Study of Congress," to assist repositories in establishing a center.

I cannot reconcile the fact that Herb is retiring, because I truly believe he has so much more to offer in this work we are doing. Herb, we cannot afford to let you fade away, and I will certainly find ways to keep you involved.

From Lori Schwartz

Charles Hagel Archivist at the University of Nebraska at Omaha

Herb Hartsook, giant of our corner of the archival profession and longtime director of South Carolina Political Collections, retired in December. You may have seen his announcement followed by tributes from colleagues on the CPS listserv. I encourage you to go back there and read about Herb's professional legacy, from his mentoring of students who would go on to become congressional archivists to his leadership in the Congressional Papers Roundtable to his development of workshops and contributions to publications which have shaped our profession.

In particular, Sheryl Vogt's heartwarming take on Herb's retirement from November 29 brought tears to my eyes. She wrote of his professional legacy, "generosity of spirit," and "wicked sense of humor," and it prompted me to reflect further on his retirement. I worked for Herb for over 13 years starting as a grad student. I remember sitting in our introductory meeting in that quirky little warehouse on the University of South Carolina campus and thinking, "I can't read him AT ALL!" Those who know Herb understand. Three years later riding with him in an elevator at the South Caroliniana Library, he turned to me and said, "You still coming to work for us next year?" Best job interview ever. After two years as a project archivist, he helped bring me on board as a faculty member where I remained until the end of 2014. You might say I'm loyal to him.

He would ask interviewees, "Would you rather be loved or hated as a boss?" My answer was, "I want to be respected!" (We congressional archivists all become politicians after a while.) I have great affection for Herb. At times I loved him. At times I was furious with him. Overall, I respected him deeply. I learned an immense amount from him and he was always supportive of me. Case in point, fall 2010 was a difficult season for me. One day in the thick of it, Herb showed up in my office, handed me a teddy bear, and told me how his mom had loved this bear. He knew I could use some extra comfort at work. That bear stayed in my office for the duration. He wrote to my parents warmly several times over the years about various milestones. When I told my mom he was retiring, she got downright misty. He was supportive even when it hurt, helping me as I applied for jobs to be closer to family in Missouri. And when I finally left for one in Omaha, he hugged me and said so many kind things. That's a good boss.

South Carolina colleagues and I would often tease Herb about his lack of facial expressions, love of certain dubious restaurants, opinions about travel, and fixation on certain things (like getting me to buy a house!). Despite our teasing, I'm pretty sure he knew we loved him. I'll give you a small idea of the camaraderie we all shared. Herb loves Aloha shirts, so we celebrated Hawaii one day with appropriate dress and many varieties of spam. He encouraged our sometimes-over-the-top annual Cheese Day celebrations and participated in our games of cheese bocce (it's a thing). One year he brought in a Thanksgiving pack of Jones Soda. Never had the warehouse experienced as much concentrated laughter as we all took turns trying Brussel sprouts soda and the like. Actually, the gravy soda wasn't bad.

I haven't gone into detail about the professional mentoring, but you can imagine how much I learned from thirteen years of soaking up his knowledge about processing collections, donor relations, outreach, oral histories, collegial interaction (where that sense of humor shines so so bright!), etc. I cannot offer enough thanks for the impact he has had on my life and career. If you're reading this, Herb, thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Herb's Tips for Preserving Congressional Collections and Building a Public Policy Archive

By Herb Hartsook, South Carolina Political Collections

Karen asked that I share some tips from my long experience with congressional collecting. I attribute much of our success in developing SCPC to the help we have received along the way.

Herb's advice and example have meant so much to those in our niche of the archives field that it simply would not do to allow him to retire without some last words of wisdom. We present those here: Herb Hartsook's Tips for Preserving Congressional Collections

Tip 1: Cultivate people who can help. The genesis of SCPC was an alumnus who thought the papers of his boss, South Carolina's U.S. Senator, Fritz Hollings, belonged at the University of South Carolina, the alum's Alma Mater. He approached USC Library Dean George Terry, who was a true visionary. Terry immediately recognized the potential to build a strong and broad collecting program targeting leaders in Congress and in state government, if Sen. Hollings agreed to entrust his papers to our care. And that vision has been realized. Over the past 26 years, SCPC has grown its holdings to a total of 134 collections. We have moved into a state-of-the-art home in the Hollings Library, and developed twelve endowed funds totaling almost two million dollars. We would never have enjoyed this success without the active support we receive from our donors, their associates, and University and Library leadership. On professional issues, fellow archivists have been exceptionally generous in sharing their expertise.

Tip 2: Never promise anything unless you know you can, and you are willing, to deliver. Our donors trust us because we do what we promise, often more quickly than they anticipated. Satisfied donors will advocate for your program both with their associates and, if necessary, with your administration.

Tip 3: If you don't ask, you don't get. You have to be willing to put yourself out there. Collections and financial support rarely fall into one's lap without some help. I have found that most people want to help. Most prospective donors of papers are honored to be approached. If they don't respond to initial solicitations, look for an alumnus of your institution or another associate of the prospect who might be willing to help you. Such folks will often support your solicitation, and an appeal from someone like that will carry far more weight than a letter or phone call from an unknown archivist.

Tip 4: Show your passion for the work and your appreciation and knowledge of the history you are working to preserve. I truly love the work and I show that in all of my interactions with donors, prospects, patrons, and the public. But don't be partisan. There is nothing duplicitous in being agreeable with members of both parties. I have found it easy to find something admirable in officials of both parties.

So these are a few suggestions I will make to younger congressional archivists. I've had a grand time and so appreciate the help I've received along the way from Karen and so many others in our field.

New Steering Committee Members

This fall the Congressional Papers Section welcomes six new faces to the steering committee. Each of these professionals brings enthusiasm and new perspectives to the section leadership. We asked each of the new steering committee members three questions as a way to get to know them better.

John Caldwell

Senior Assistant Librarian and
Political Papers Archivist
University of Delaware

What do you hope to accomplish on the CPS Steering Committee?

"I think the biggest thing I want to accomplish on Steering is building partnerships to expand the scope of CPS to include not only Congressional papers, but other legislative records at lower levels of government. The legislative branch of government, at all levels, is very much "the people's branch" of government, and I think it's important to document these functions from the top-down and bottom-up. This will also open the door to more collaboration with the Government Records and Local Government sections."

What is your vision of the future of Congressional archives?

"My vision of Congressional archives in the (hopefully near) future is twofold- 1) all members preserving their records; and 2) having a single clearinghouse for researchers to search across Congressional collections, instead of jumping to each repository individually."

Who is your archival hero?

"I think my archival hero is Abdel Kader Haidara, curator of the Mamma Haidara Memorial Library in Timbuktu. Haidara worked to save thousands of manuscripts from Al-Qaida militants when they took over the city in 2014. The whole story is recounted in *The Badass Librarians of Timbuktu*, a really great read."

Shae Rafferty

Labor and Urban Affairs Collections
Archivist
Wayne State University

What do you hope to accomplish on the CPS Steering Committee?

"I would love to help create a wider effort to aid archivists who are new to working with Congressional papers who might not have the accumulated knowledge or support of some of our Section members. While some archival institutions specialize in collecting political or congressional materials, many congressional collections are placed at a state or university archive in a Congressional Member's home state. For archivists at these institutions who are new to congressional papers, the information needed to start work these types of collections can mean a big learning curve. Knowing what resources to start with or who to ask questions of could be a big help."

What is your vision of the future of Congressional archives?

"Congressional archives will always be an important historical resource. With increases in digital use of files, the complications of processing increase, but also provide a great deal of opportunity for data mining and extracting information from collections that, due to their size can prove difficult to effectively use in paper form."

Who is your archival hero?

"My archives hero is Anne L. Foster, Archivist at Yellowstone National Park Archives. Anne was my Supervisor for a

(Continued on page 8)

New Steering Committee Members

(Continued from page 7)

summer while I worked there as an intern. Her use of thoughtful innovations to make the most of resources available to the archive really stuck with me. I try bring innovation forward in my own career and remember that innovation happens on both small and large scales, and that some thoughtful consideration may go a long way. I have even adapted her concept for Archives Blitzes on numerous occasions to engage archival students in an opportunity to connect classroom learning and hands-on archival processing!"

Nathan Gerth

Assistant Curator and Archivist
Carl Albert Congressional Research and
Studies Center
University of Oklahoma

What do you hope to accomplish on the CPS Steering Committee?

"During my time on the Congressional Papers Section steering committee I hope to foster increased collaboration between repositories. I envision CPS as an organization that offers members an opportunity to collaborate and learn from each other well beyond the annual meeting. Specifically, I see it as a platform for efforts to leverage data from CPS member collections, in particular email and CMS/CSS data, to boost computational social science research on congressional papers."

What is your vision of the future of Congressional archives?

"In my mind, the future of congressional collections revolves will be defined by the question of increasing access and engaging new audiences. During my time at the Carl Albert Center, I have been routinely surprised by the breadth of topics and scholarly methodologies that benefited from the scope and depth of the congressional collections in the repository. However, it can be a struggle to promote use of collections

beyond disciplines that focus on overtly political topics. I see this struggle to define the relevance of congressional collections as one that will hinge on fostering creative forms of outreach that will open doorways to the collections that will help new communities of users leverage our resources in unexpected and innovative ways."

Who is your archival hero?

"I would be hard pressed to identify one person who is my archival hero. That being said, I have no problem identifying the archivists in the Senate and the House as my archival heroes. During my time in this field, I have come to admire their ability to navigate the complicated political arena that has taken shape in the Capitol. At the same time, they show an uncanny ability to communicate valuable insights about the people, be they staffers or members of Congress, who created the large, sometimes impersonal collections we curate in the congressional papers world. Furthermore, they have always been generous in their willingness to take a phone call or answer a question, even when their own duties are numerous and demanding."

Jody Brumage

Archivist and Office Manager
Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional
History and Education
Shepherd University

What do you hope to accomplish on the CPS Steering Committee?

"As a newly-recruited member on the steering committee, I am excited to serve as the section's web liaison and hope to follow up the tremendous work done by previous liaisons to ensure that our section's microsite remains a valuable resource for our members. One area that I intend to focus on is updating sections of our microsite which

(Continued on page 9)

New Steering Committee Members

(Continued from page 8)

contain important information for both our members and our individual audiences, such as the “projects/publications” and “grants and fellowship” pages of the microsite. By bringing this information up-to-date, the microsite for the Congressional Papers Section can be a source to which we refer our researchers and other audiences at our individual institutions. I look forward to working with the other steering committee

members and our section in the upcoming year and welcome any and all suggestions/ideas!”

What is your vision of the future of Congressional archives?

“As an archivist working on a university campus, I’ve had the opportunity to explore and implement programs which use congressional records in innovative ways to engage with students and the general public. Archives tours and hands-on document narration, development of teaching lesson plans, exhibits, online/social media outreach, and educational development are just a few areas where congressional archives and archivists can make meaningful contributions. I want to continue fostering these developing uses of congressional archives alongside the traditional research models to ensure that our work remains relevant and continues to gain broader support.”

Who is your archival hero?

“I greatly admire the career and scholarly contributions of Dr. Terry Cook. Having been made aware of his writings in graduate school, I found his stances on the role archivists play in the shaping of collections and the larger impact we have on cultural memory to be a perfect fit for my own limited experiences in the profession. My fa-

vorite of Dr. Cook’s articles, coauthored by Joan Schwartz, is *Archives, Records, and Power: The Making of Modern Memory*, which issues a challenge to archivists to be aware of the role we play and encourages us to exercise that authority in responsible

Dina Mazina

Archivist

U.S. Senate Committee on Finance

Hello! I’m excited to be one of your new editor-in-chiefs along with Robert! I’ve been an archivist in the US Senate since 2011 and am currently serving as the archivist for the Senate Committee on Finance. I wanted to be an editor for the newsletter in hopes of getting more involved in the field, connecting with other archivists, and of course, reading more of the articles! In my professional scope, I am particularly interested in projects to capture the experiences of senior staff and senators in regards to individual historic events happening in the political world. In my personal life, I enjoy reading, yoga, sewing, cycling, camping, and practicing my two foreign languages – Russian and German. I look forward to hearing all the exciting news about your repositories!

Robert Lay

Special Projects Archivist

University of North Texas

Hello, fellow CPS members! I am happy that I have the opportunity to volunteer with the newsletter alongside Dina. I am a veteran of a few congressional repositories, including the Dole Institute and the Carl Albert Center. By day I manage large processing projects, but in my free time I’m a known board game enthusiast and an avid hiker and camper. CPS members have always been among the most innovative professionals in the field; Dina and I will do our best to record that activity here!

Institutional Updates

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

One thing that makes working in an archive so rewarding is the variety of activities accomplished every day. I'm sure you have similar projects going on in your own shops, and it is nice to take time to enumerate and celebrate our unique little victories. Here's what the Baylor Collections of Political Materials has been doing.

In the last 13 months we have added 11 collections to CuadraSTAR containing a total of 1,173 document and 130 record boxes. Included are congressional papers from Alan Steelman (R-TX), Ed Lee Gossett (D-TX), and Chet Edwards (D-TX). State legislators include Senator Chet Edwards, Speaker of the House Byron Tunnell, and Representative Jim Dunnam. The Campaign and Comptroller papers of Lt. Governor Bob Bullock's archive round out the public servant papers now available.

Director Debbie Davendonis-Todd is celebrating five years at the Poage Library this month. She was named director last April.

Baylor Collections of Political Materials added 3 new photos
Published by Mary Goolsby [P] · October 16 at 5:17am · 📍
We hope you enjoy this #recreatedphoto of Mr. Poage's staff (from Fowler West's book, "He Ain't No Lawyer") and the Poage staff and student assistants today. It took a few times to get it right.
#NationalBossesDay #NationalArchivesMonth #CongressionalArchives



with Facebook and blog posts, while our undergrads enjoy creating Instagram posts. We hope you will follow us under @Poage_Library on all platforms.

On Friday, November 10, we hosted some of our donors for a "lunch and learn" event. Debbie and two graduate students, Malcolm



Foley, and Alex Hampton, prepared a Q&A session to update the group and promote new giving opportunities. The donors enjoyed lunch and building tours afterwards.

Former Congressman Chet Edwards was named the W. R. Poage Distinguished Chair of Public Service in January 2012. Over the last five-and-



a-half years he has visited campus two weeks each semester. His office is in Poage Library, and we construct his schedule per email requests. He has had a major im-

act on campus as he teaches classes, speaks to student groups, consults with faculty, and mentors students one-on-one. Edwards also works with Baylor students in the Washington Internship Program when they go to DC. We believe he is the only former member of Congress contracted to work at the institution where his papers are archived. Edwards is an invaluable asset and beloved member of the Baylor faculty. A graduate of Texas A&M (BA, Economics) and Harvard (MBA), Chet was recently named Alumni By Choice by the Baylor Alumni Network and will receive his "decree" in February 2018.

— Mary Goolsby

Institutional Updates

University of Nevada at Reno

The Special Collections and University Archives at the University of Nevada, Reno has begun work on the papers of Senator Harry Reid. The papers document over 50 years of Reid's career in public service spanning from his time as Lt. Governor of Nevada to his years in the US Senate in which he served as both Majority and Minority Leader. The department received the bulk of the collection in December 2016 after the Senator left office. An additional archivist hired to specifically work on the papers, Ian McGlory, began earlier this year in August. Having worked previously at Texas A&M-Commerce, he will be primarily responsible for processing the physical component of the nearly 1300 box collection. The digital component of the collection, roughly twelve terabytes of electronic records, will be handled by a digital archivist who will be starting early next year. For additional information about the Reid Papers, please contact Ian McGlory at imcglory@unr.edu.



Senator-Elect Harry Reid, left, and Secretary of Energy John Herrington, right.

— Ian McGlory

Rutgers University Special Collections and University Archives

The Rutgers University Special Collections and University Archives received the Senator Frank R. Lautenberg (1924-2013) papers, which contained an initial 2,250 linear feet of material, in 2013 and the project to process these papers

nears completion. In honor of the project, Rutgers is opening an exhibit in honor of the Senator's life and achievements on February 21, 2018.

Lautenberg served five terms as a Senator from NJ from 1982 until his death in 2013. The exhibit will focus on major achievements from his career, including the Soviet Refugee bill, support for the Federal drinking age, support for transportation causes, and environmental support just to name a few. This exhibit will also look beyond his legislative achievements to give insight to the life experiences that shaped Lautenberg and his work, such as his experiences growing up in a working class, Jewish immigrant family in New Jersey, founding and growing ADP from a small company to a multinational corporation, and as the last surviving WWII veteran in the Senate.

Though currently closed to the public, the collection is set to open on or before June 30th, 2018 with minor reference questions accepted presently. For information about the collection, contact Sheridan Sayles, Archivist for the Senator Frank R. Lautenberg Papers, at Sheridan.l.sayles@rutgers.edu or 848-445-5707.

University of Mississippi, Modern Political Archives

Recently opened to the public, the William M. "Fishbait" Miller Collection occupies 225 linear feet and offers researchers an opportunity to explore Congress behind-the-scenes during the mid-twentieth century. Born in the Gulf Coast town of Pascagoula, Mississippi in 1909, Miller worked for Bill Colmer during his first congressional campaign in 1932, and the new member arranged for the young man to become a clerk in the House Post Office. Miller's career continued in the House advanced, and in 1949 the Democratic Caucus elected him Doorkeeper. He retained the post until 1953 when he became Minority Doorkeeper after the Republicans obtained control of the chamber. Miller recovered

(Continued on page 12)

Institutional Updates

(Continued from page 11)
his former position in 1955 and held onto it until 1974. During Miller's tenure, the Doorkeeper was one of five officials elected by the majority of House members. He supervised approximately 350 employees, including doormen on floor and galley levels, messengers, pages, barbers, retiring room attendants, and janitors.

Miller was also responsible for the Document Room, the cloakrooms, snack bars, telephones messages when the House was in session, the Folding Room, and wastepaper recycling. Miller made arrangements for Joint Sessions and Joint Meetings as well as issuing special passes. He formally announced the president and other dignitaries to Congress and the arrival of messages from the president. The Doorkeeper also issued House galley passes to members' offices for distribution to visitors, monitored legislation on the floor, and enforced certain floor rules.

Miller became a well-known personality in the Capitol and was often the subject of media coverage. *Fishbait: The Memoirs of the Congressional Doorkeeper* appeared in 1977. Promoted by the publisher as a "tell-all," the autobiography shared scandalous stories about members as well as describing the formal and informal activities of the U.S. Capitol.

The Fishbait Miller Collection has already served as the source of exhibit cases on foreign dignitaries ad-



Fishbait Miller with Michael Collins, Neil Armstrong, and Buzz Aldrin on 16 September 1969 when the Apollo 11 astronauts addressed Congress in a Joint Meeting to discuss the first moon landing.

ressing Congress, the restaurants of the U.S. House of Representatives, and film premiers in Washington, DC. Future displays will cover topics such as astronauts at the Capitol, congressional baseballs games, State of the Union addresses, chaplains in Congress, and several other topics.

— Leigh McWhite

West Virginia University

The WVU Libraries opened thousands of archival records and digital photographs from the Congressman Nick Joe Rahall II papers in November 2017.

In 1976, Nick Rahall II, a 27-year-old native of Beckley, WV, won the race for the West Virginia Fourth Congressional District and went on to

win re-election to the U.S. House of Representatives for another eighteen terms (1977-2015), making him the longest serving congressman in West Virginia history.

The materials in his collection document Rahall's numerous contributions to national policy and state projects. Through-



Before he was elected to Congress, Nick Rahall worked in the office of then U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd and as assistant to the Majority Secretary of the Senate. He is pictured with Senators Jennings Randolph, Mike Mansfield, and Byrd in June 1976.

(Continued on page 13)

Institutional Updates

(Continued from page 12)

out his career, Rahall was recognized for his expertise relating to transportation, infrastructure, technology, energy, and the environment. He led the development of federal highway and transit legislation and authored legislation to establish the New River Gorge National River as a unit of the National Park Service and to designate the Gauley River National Recreation Area and the Bluestone National Scenic River.



Nick Rahall served as chairman of both the House Subcommittee on Mining and Natural Resources (1985-1993) and the House Committee on Natural Resources (2007-2011). He is pictured with miners from the Old Ben Coal Mine in 1986.

As the grandson of Lebanese-Protestant immigrants, Rahall took an interest and leadership role in national and foreign policy related to the Middle East, making numerous delegation trips to the region during his congressional service.

The opened materials come primarily from the press files and include speeches, press releases, and newspaper clippings from 1976-2014. Numerous photographs document Congressman Rahall at various events, hearings, and meetings with West Virginians in his Washington, D.C., office. Photographs also capture moments from his numerous overseas trips and visits to West Virginia. A large portion of the photographs have been made available online at the website: <https://rahall.lib.wvu.edu>.

Congressman Rahall donated his papers to WVU Libraries in 2015. The collection is one of the largest in the Libraries' holdings at more than 2,089 record cartons, and it continues to be processed.

Children's Health Policy in the Archives: Understanding the Past and Informing the Present

In a time of uncertainty for children's health care accessibility and coverage, West Virginia University's John D. Rockefeller IV School of Policy and Politics partnered with the WVU Health Sciences Center and WVU Libraries to host the "Children's Health Policy Summit: Understanding the People, Place and Policy Behind Health Care." Held on September 7, 2017, in Morgantown,

WV, speakers discussed progress and challenges related to children's access to quality, affordable health care and considered the future of health policy and delivery of care.

Key note speakers included West Virginia native Sylvia Burwell, president of American University and former secretary of the U.S. Department of

Health and Human Services, and former U.S. Senator Jay Rockefeller, a leader in state and federal health care policy for 40 years. Two of Senator Rockefeller's former staffers, including health legislative assistant Mary Ella Payne, also participated. About 200 faculty, health provid-



Senator Rockefeller and Sylvia Burwell discussing the future of children's health policy. Photo courtesy Brian Persinger, WVU University Relations

(Continued on page 14)

Institutional Updates

(Continued from page 13)

ers, policy makers, elected officials, program administrators, advocates, and government staff were in attendance.

Serving as a foundation for the Summit were Senator Rockefeller's archives, which were exhibited at the event. In 1997, Congress passed the bipartisan Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), the largest federal investment in children's health since the creation of Medicaid in 1965. Senator Rockefeller played a key role in CHIP's creation, working with Republican Senator John Chafee to move a proposal through the Senate Finance Committee.

The stories from his archives gave participants a chance to reflect on lessons learned from CHIP on the 20th anniversary year of the bipartisan, federal and state collaboration that has provided health coverage to thousands of children in working families. The archives were also featured in a video about passing and implementing CHIP, which is available online at the following link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ar_SDIIU5eU.

At the time of writing in November 2017, Congress has not reauthorized CHIP, and several states, including West Virginia, are preparing to shut down the program in early 2018 due to lack of funds.



Senator Rockefeller being interviewed in front of the CHIP exhibit. Photo courtesy Brian Persinger, WVU University Relations

— Danielle Emerling

Middle Tennessee State University

A Mirror of Today's Political Fray in Letters From 50 Years Ago

The constituent mail found in Senator Albert Gore, Sr.'s Senate Papers at Middle Tennessee State University was recently the focus of an article in the *New York Times* by Campbell Robertson.

A large portion of Albert Gore, Sr.'s Senate Papers contain constituent mail during the 1950s and 1960s, which were critical decades in American history. The staff of the Albert Gore Research Center often uses those documents in classroom instruction, public programs, blog posts, and local newspaper op-eds. Gore's constituent mail reflects the local and national issues that were important to Tennesseans at the time, and they also provide insight into how his congressional office functioned or how it handled a particularly controversial piece of legislation. Most strikingly, though, is how arguments found in constituent mail from decades ago are applicable today.



Senator Albert Gore Sr. in 1956. Credit: Associated Press

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 14)

For students, exploring Gore's constituent mail has become one of the most effective ways to connect current political and social issues with the past.

Kent Syler, the Gore Center's Special Projects Coordinator and professor of political science, demonstrated the relevancy of Gore's constituent mail to New York Times writer Campbell Robertson upon his visit to Murfreesboro in mid-October. Robertson was in town to cover the scheduled "White Lives Matter" rally to take place on the public square on October 28. Syler urged him to write a piece on Gore's constituent mail, too, since the archives were unique and no other reporter would have such a story. Fortunately, the New York Times agreed it would be a great article. NYT wanted to showcase some of the letters online and in the print edition, so we scanned high-resolution images of many constituent letters covering several topics from the 1960s, like immigration, health care, gun control, and civil rights. From my perspective, none of this would have been possible without the relationship that the Gore Center (especially Kent Syler) has built over time with the media. We are pleased with the outcome of the article, and glad it received such positive feedback from our colleagues across the nation.

The full article can be viewed at <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/10/29/us/gore-letters.html>.

— Sarah Calise