ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION OF CENTERS FOR THE STUDY OF CONGRESS (ACSC)

The Association of Centers for the Study of Congress (ACSC) was founded in 2003 as an independent alliance of organizations and institutions which promote the study of the U.S. Congress.

ACSC draws on the talents and resources of its members to promote a wide range of programs and research opportunities related to Congress. Many of the member institutions house archival collections of the papers of current and former members of the House of Representatives, the Senate, and other related research collections.

The membership of ACSC incorporates over sixty institutions located in thirty-two states.

Connect with ACSC:
congresscenters.org | facebook.com/congresscenters | twitter.com/congresscenters
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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Wednesday, May 8, 2019

8:30 am—12:30 pm  Convening and Moderating a Deliberative Forum Workshop
This workshop fulfills an ACSC goal to provide its member institutions training and experience in establishing civic engagement programs that foster public deliberation on important issues that come before Congress and the nation. Attendees will use A Discussion Guide for Community Dialogue and A Guide for Forum Conveners and Moderators prepared by ACSC-member congressional centers in partnership with Kettering Foundation.
The workshop will cover:
● What is Deliberation and Why it Matters
● Components of an Issues Forum
● The Moderator’s Role
● How to Construct Questions for Deliberation
● Opportunities to Practice Moderating
● Resources
Instructor:
Margaret Holt, Charles F. Kettering Foundation

Noon
Check-In

12:30 pm
Lunch
Welcome by Program Committee
Welcome by ACSC President and introduction of officers and committee chairs
Membership report and Introduction of New Members
Preview of Business Meeting and Announcements of Award Winners

1:30 pm  Session 1
Keynote: The Field of Blood: Violence in Congress and the Road to Civil War
with Joanne B. Freeman
After more than fifteen years of research, historian Joanne Freeman -- a leading authority on early American political culture -- has uncovered roughly seventy physically violent incidents in the antebellum Congress, most of them long forgotten. Fistfights, guns and knives, out-and-out brawls: essentially censored out of the period’s equivalent of the Congressional Record, these incidents show how violence was a tool of debate in the polarized pre-Civil War Congress, and reveal how new technologies like the telegraph increasingly tangled the give-and-take of national politics at a time of trial.

2:30 pm  Break
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Wednesday, May 8, 2019

2:45 pm

Outreach Programs that Connect with Teachers and Promote Civic Education

Session 2

Teachers are vital allies in helping centers education today’s students to be tomorrow’s informed and active voters. This panel presents three programs that model effective ways to engage state-wide audiences of teachers with educational materials that have improved student achievement.

Moderator
Charlie Flanagan, Outreach Supervisor, Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives

Panelists
- Michael L. Gillette, Humanities Texas
- Valerie McVey, Florida Joint Center for Citizenship
- Jay Wyatt, Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education

3:45 pm

Break

4:00 pm

News Round Up

Session 3

ACSC goes speed-geeking is back! Join your colleagues for a brief roundtable discussion that is immersive, invigorating, and fun. Come to connect with colleagues and follow the exciting work happening around the country in our centers.

Moderator
Blynne Olivieri, University of West Georgia

Participants
- Jody Brumage, Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education
- Caroline Angel Burke, Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the U.S. Senate
- Hope Greiben Bibens, Drake University
- Rebecca Sherman, Emory University
- Mary Goolsby, Baylor University
- Ryan Semmes, Mississippi State University
- Mike Berry, University of South Carolina
- Zach Johnson, Vanderbilt University

5:00 pm

Adjourn

Executive Committee Meeting

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2019 ACSC ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thursday, May 9, 2019

8:30 am
Coffee and Danish

9:15 am
Are Your Programs as Good as You Think They Are? A Hands-On Workshop for Evaluation Strategies
How do you know if your educational programs are hitting their goals? How can you measure success and isolate areas for improvement? In this session, we’ll learn about foundational evaluation strategies and take a hands-on approach to program evaluation, by participating in and then evaluating a Senatorial role play program called Today’s Vote. By getting a hands-on perspective, attendees will consider what evaluation tools can (and cannot) tell us about the efficacy of a program, and how attendees can apply what they learn in their own institutions.

Panelists
Caroline Angel Burke, Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate
Kelly Bovio, Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate
Rey Junco, Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE), Tufts University

10:15 am
Break

10:25 am
Founders Panel
ACSC was founded in 2003 and has since grown significantly. This session gathers several members who were there at the start of it all to discuss the core concepts and ideas that led to the creation of ACSC, how those ideas were realized, and how the organization has evolved over the past decade and a half.

Moderator
Frank Mackaman, The Dirksen Congressional Center

Panelists
Karen Paul, U.S. Senate Historical Office
Ray Smock, Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education
Sheryl Vogt, University of Georgia
Michael L. Gillette, Humanities Texas

11:25 am
Break

11:35 am
Business Meeting

12:10 pm
Lunch
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thursday, May 9, 2019

1:15 pm
Session 7
The America Contacts Congress Project: Preserving the Data of Representative Government
Constituent correspondence with members of Congress captures the interactions between Americans and their elected representatives. Congress manages correspondence with proprietary systems, and data exported from these systems poses major challenges. No repository has processed these large data sets in a replicable way, and data is at risk of disappearing. The America Contacts Congress project, funded by a LYRASIS Catalyst Fund grant, considers how to preserve the data and how researchers will use this unique resource.

Panelists
Hope Bibens, Drake University
John Caldwell, University of Delaware
Danielle Emerling, West Virginia University
M. Alison White, Senate Historical Office

2:15 pm
Break

2:25 pm
Session 8
Researching in Congressional Collections
These are extraordinary political times—or are they? Join scholars and archivists for a roundtable discussion of what they have learned from congressional archival collections about the polarized politics of earlier eras.

Moderator
M. Alison White, Senate Historical Office

Panelists
John Lawrence, University of California Washington Center
Nancy Beck Young, University of Houston
Kate Scott, Senate Historical Office

3:25 pm
Break

3:35 pm
Session 9
Members Panel
This year’s members spotlight features a former member and a current member. Chuck Grassley and Tom Harkin served the people of Iowa together for 40 years, in both the House and Senate.

Moderator
Betty Koed, Senate Historical Office

Panelists
Senator Chuck Grassley
Senator Tom Harkin

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Julia Howington, John Joseph Moakley Archive and Institute, Suffolk University
Robert Rubero, Claude Pepper Library, Florida State University
Mary Goolsby, W. R. Poage Legislative Library, Baylor University
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Hope Grebner Bibens, The Harkin Institute, Drake University
Sarah D’Antonio Gard, Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics, University of Kansas

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Alison White, Co-chair, U.S. Senate Historical Office
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Natalie Bond, University of Montana
John Caldwell, University of Delaware
Nathan Gerth, University of Nevada Reno
Brandon Pieczko, Richard B. Russell Library for Political Research and Studies, University of Georgia

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Jody Brumage, Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education, Shepherd University

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thursday, May 9, 2019
4:35 pm Adjourn
6:30 pm Dinner at “The Loft at The Hamilton” (1600 14th Street NW)

Friday, May 10, 2019
8:30 am Coffee and Danish
9:00 am Roundtable: Recent Publications about Congress
Session 10

Moderator:
Frank H. Mackaman, Dirksen Congressional Center

Panelists:
Matthew N. Green, Professor of Politics at The Catholic University of America
Douglas B. Harris, Professor of Political Science at Loyola University Maryland
Scott R. Meinke, Professor of Political Science at Bucknell University
David W. Cogdon, Acquisitions Editor, University Press of Kansas

10:05 am Break
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, May 10, 2019

10:15 am  Sharing Knowledge through Civil Discourse
Session 11
The Arlen Specter Center at Jefferson University is dedicated to sharing knowledge with the University and the community through active conversation and presentation. Senator Specter, a leading moderate voice in the Senate, placed the efficacy of policy or law ahead of party politics. In an effort to continue this legacy, the Center instituted two successful programs based on education and evidence based discussion. The first, the Roxboro House Roundtables, are safe place informal discussions led by faculty, community, students and/or staff. In the 50+ to date topics, presenters and roundtable members argued controversial topics in politics, health, culture, law, business and psychology. The recorded Roundtables have been listened to thousands of times as podcasts both nationally and internationally. The format, which encourages the expression of opinion with the purpose of achieving negotiated solutions, instead of acrimony, serves as a model for effective political interaction, debate and compromise. Second, the Knowledge Exchange is a lecture series that shares original research, practice-based creative work. It has successfully featured over twenty research presentations, some of which were subsequently published in national and international academic journals. Since its launch, the Exchange has promoted productive sharing and networking among faculty members, encouraged mentoring of student research, and contributed to an interdisciplinary that has enriched the University community of teacher/scholars, teacher/practitioners, and learners.

Panelists
Evan Laine, Arlen Specter Center, Jefferson University
Raju Parakkal, Arlen Specter Center, Jefferson University

11:30 am  Executive Committee Meeting [If Necessary]
Conference Ends
Lunch

12:30 pm  National Archives Vault Tour

2019-2020 ACSC COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE MEMBERS

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Vice President: John Caldwell, University of Delaware
Treasurer: Danielle Emerling, West Virginia and Regional History Center, West Virginia University
Secretary: Lori Schwartz, Dr. C.C. & Mabel Criss Library, University of Nebraska Omaha

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Karen Paul, U.S. Senate Historical Office
Heather Bourk, U.S. House Office of Art and Archives
Richard Hunt, Center for Legislative Archives

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Jody Brumage, Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education, Shepherd University

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Karen Paul, U.S. Senate Historical Office
Sheryl Vogt, Richard B. Russell Library for Political Research and Studies, University of Georgia
Hope Grebner Bibens, The Harkin Institute, Drake University (ex officio)

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Michelle Belco, University of Houston
Rebecca Johnson Melvin, University of Delaware

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Samantha Sauer, Co-chair, Paul Findley Congressional Office Museum, Illinois College
Ryan Semmes, Congressional and Political Research Center, Mississippi State University Libraries
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

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Raju Parakkal, Arlen Specter Center, Jefferson University

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11:45 am  Conference Ends
12:00 pm  Lunch
12:30 pm  National Archives Vault Tour

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Heather Bourk, U.S. House Office of Art and Archives
Richard Hunt, Center for Legislative Archives

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Ryan Semmes, Congressional and Political Research Center, Mississippi State University Libraries
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

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4:35 pm Adjourn

6:30 pm Dinner at “The Loft at The Hamilton” (1600 14th Street NW)

Friday, May 10, 2019

8:30 am Coffee and Danish

9:00 am Roundtable: Recent Publications about Congress

Session 10

Sponsored by The Dirksen Congressional Center

The roundtable, a new addition to the ACSC annual meeting, will feature authors of recent books about Congress who base their work in archival resources. The highlighted publication this year is Robert H. Michel: Leading the Republican House Minority (University Press of Kansas, Spring 2019) edited by Frank H. Mackaman and Sean Q Kelly. An innovative approach to biography, the book includes chapters by more than a dozen political scientists and historians who examine Michel’s career as the longest serving House Republican leader in history. The panelists will explore the challenges they faced in conducting their research and suggest how those of us who manage congressional archives can support research and scholarship about Congress. In addition, a representative of the University Press of Kansas will introduce UPK’s new book series focused on congressional leadership.

Moderator:
Frank H. Mackaman, Dirksen Congressional Center

Panelists:
Matthew N. Green, Professor of Politics at The Catholic University of America
Douglas B. Harris, Professor of Political Science at Loyola University Maryland
Scott R. Meinke, Professor of Political Science at Bucknell University
David W. Cogdon, Acquisitions Editor, University Press of Kansas

10:05 am Break
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thursday, May 9, 2019

1:15 pm  
The America Contacts Congress Project: Preserving the Data of Representative Government

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Panelists

Hope Bibens, Drake University  
John Caldwell, University of Delaware  
Danielle Emerling, West Virginia University  
M. Alison White, Senate Historical Office

2:15 pm  
Break

2:25 pm  
Panel

2:25 pm  
Researching in Congressional Collections

These are extraordinary political times—or are they? Join scholars and archivists for a roundtable discussion of what they have learned from congressional archival collections about the polarized politics of earlier eras.

Moderator

M. Alison White, Senate Historical Office

Panelists

John Lawrence, University of California Washington Center  
Nancy Beck Young, University of Houston  
Kate Scott, Senate Historical Office

3:25 pm  
Break

3:35 pm  
Members Panel

This year’s members spotlight features a former member and a current member. Chuck Grassley and Tom Harkin served the people of Iowa together for 40 years, in both the House and Senate.

Moderator

Betty Koed, Senate Historical Office

Panelists

Senator Chuck Grassley  
Senator Tom Harkin

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thursday, May 9, 2019

8:30 am
Coffee and Danish

9:15 am
Are Your Programs as Good as You Think They Are? A Hands-On Workshop for Evaluation Strategies
How do you know if your educational programs are hitting their goals? How can you measure success and isolate areas for improvement? In this session, we’ll learn about foundational evaluation strategies and take a hands-on approach to program evaluation, by participating in and then evaluating a Senatorial role play program called Today’s Vote. By getting a hands-on perspective, attendees will consider what evaluation tools can (and cannot) tell us about the efficacy of a program, and how attendees can apply what they learn in their own institutions.

Panelists
Caroline Angel Burke, Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate
Kelly Bovio, Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate
Rey Junco, Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE), Tufts University

10:15 am
Break

10:25 am
Founders Panel
ACSC was founded in 2003 and has since grown significantly. This session gathers several members who were there at the start of it all to discuss the core concepts and ideas that led to the creation of ACSC, how those ideas were realized, and how the organization has evolved over the past decade and a half.

Moderator
Frank Mackaman, The Dirksen Congressional Center

Panelists
Karen Paul, U.S. Senate Historical Office
Ray Smock, Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education
Sheryl Vogt, University of Georgia
Michael L. Gillette, Humanities Texas

11:25 am
Break

11:35 am
Business Meeting

12:10 pm
Lunch
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Wednesday, May 8, 2019

2:45 pm  Outreach Programs that Connect with Teachers and Promote Civic Education
Session 2  Teachers are vital allies in helping centers education today’s students to be tomorrow’s informed and active voters. This panel presents three programs that model effective ways to engage state-wide audiences of teachers with educational materials that have improved student achievement.

Moderator  Charlie Flanagan, Outreach Supervisor, Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives

Panelists  Michael L. Gillette, Humanities Texas
Valerie McVey, Florida Joint Center for Citizenship
Jay Wyatt, Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education

3:45 pm  Break
4:00 pm  News Round Up
Session 3  ACSC goes speed-geeking is back! Join your colleagues for a brief roundtable discussion that is immersive, invigorating, and fun. Come to connect with colleagues and follow the exciting work happening around the country in our centers.

Moderator  Blynne Olivieri, University of West Georgia

Participants  Jody Brumage, Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education
Caroline Angel Burke, Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the U.S. Senate
Hope Grebner Bibens, Drake University
Rebecca Sherman, Emory University
Mary Goolsby, Baylor University
Ryan Semmes, Mississippi State University
Mike Berry, University of South Carolina
Zach Johnson, Vanderbilt University

5:00 pm  Adjourn  Executive Committee Meeting

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**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

**Wednesday, May 8, 2019**

**8:30 am—12:30 pm**  Convening and Moderating a Deliberative Forum Workshop  
This workshop fulfills an ACSC goal to provide its member institutions training and experience in establishing civic engagement programs that foster public deliberation on important issues that come before Congress and the nation. Attendees will use A *Discussion Guide for Community Dialogue* and A Guide for Forum Conveners and Moderators prepared by ACSC-member congressional centers in partnership with Kettering Foundation.  
The workshop will cover:  
- What is Deliberation and Why it Matters  
- Components of an Issues Forum  
- The Moderator’s Role  
- How to Construct Questions for Deliberation  
- Opportunities to Practice Moderating  
- Resources  
**Instructor:**  
Margaret Holt, Charles F. Kettering Foundation

**Noon**  
Check-In

**12:30 pm**  
Lunch  
Welcome by Program Committee  
Welcome by ACSC President and introduction of officers and committee chairs  
Membership report and Introduction of New Members  
Preview of Business Meeting and Announcements of Award Winners

**1:30 pm**  
**Session 1**  
**Keynote:** *The Field of Blood: Violence in Congress and the Road to Civil War*  
with Joanne B. Freeman  
After more than fifteen years of research, historian Joanne Freeman -- a leading authority on early American political culture -- has uncovered roughly seventy physically violent incidents in the antebellum Congress, most of them long forgotten. Fistfights, guns and knives, out-and-out brawls: essentially censored out of the period’s equivalent of the Congressional Record, these incidents show how violence was a tool of debate in the polarized pre-Civil War Congress, and reveal how new technologies like the telegraph increasingly tangled the give-and-take of national politics at a time of trial.

**2:30 pm**  
Break
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## ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION OF CENTERS FOR THE STUDY OF CONGRESS (ACSC)

The Association of Centers for the Study of Congress (ACSC) was founded in 2003 as an independent alliance of organizations and institutions which promote the study of the U.S. Congress.

ACSC draws on the talents and resources of its members to promote a wide range of programs and research opportunities related to Congress. Many of the member institutions house archival collections of the papers of current and former members of the House of Representatives, the Senate, and other related research collections.

The membership of ACSC incorporates over sixty institutions located in thirty-two states.

Connect with ACSC:

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